

Exports of handicrafts

2361. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts has claimed that our handicrafts exports can cross \$10 billion by 2010 provided Government, grants industrial status to this sector, sets up SEZs and grants certain other concessions to this sector;

(b) whether the Council has made a request to Government for such help for its healthy development, and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to help this sector to boost their growth?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Export Promotion Council of Handicraft (EPCH) has reported that a Memorandum has been submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry highlighting various issues concerning Exim Policy, Flexible Labour Laws; 'Special Economic Zone' for handicrafts and allied products; 100% deduction under section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act etc. The council has stated that if these issues are resolved, the export of handicrafts can cross \$10 billion by 2010

(c) Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has been advised to submit detailed action plan on various issues for consideration of the competent authority.

Production of cotton and synthetic fabrics

2362. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cotton and synthetic fabrics in the country annually;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent annually for importing chemicals etc. for producing synthetic fabrics; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote cotton fabrics in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The production of cotton, blended and 100% non-cotton fabrics in the country during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given below:

Production of fabrics (Mn.sq.mtr)

Production of fabrics	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (P)
Cotton	19769	19300	18062
Blended	6287	5876	6077
100% Non Cotton	15334	16135	17907
Khadi Wool and Silk	644	662	662(R)
GRAND TOTAL :	42034	41973	42708

P=Provisional, R=Repeated

(b) No such information is maintained by the Government

(c) The Government acts as a facilitator for promoting the production of all textile items including cotton fabrics. The various steps taken by the Government for this purpose are as under:

- (i) *Technology Mission on Cotton* was launched during 1999-2000 for a period of 5 years. The said mission, which has four Mini-Missions is expected to bring about all round improvement in the production, productivity and quality of cotton through research, transfer of technology and improvement in the raw cotton processing and marketing.
- (ii) Considering the felt need to upgrade technology in various segments of the Textile Industry including Powerloom Sector, Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFFS) w.e.f 1/4/1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e. up to 31st March 2003. Subsequently, the scheme was extended up to 31st March 2007. The scheme provides 5% interest reimbursement for rupee term loan (RTL) and exchange rate fluctuation/forward cover premium limited to 5% for foreign currency loan (FCL) availed for a project in conformity with the scheme.

As on 30th June, 2004, 3167 units have applied for loan under TUF scheme with a total project cost of Rs 20,366 crore and loan requirement of Rs 11,382 crore. Out of these, 2910 cases have been sanctioned an amount of Rs 7,704 crore. An amount of Rs. 6,604 crore has been disbursed in respect of 2476 units.

- (iii) Import duty in respect of 387 textile machinery including Shuttle less loom has been reduced to 5% to facilitate import of high tech machinery.
- (iv) The facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50% extended to weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFs.
- (v) The Government has placed all the textile fibre/yarn under O.G.L. to augment the availability of such fibre/yarn to the textile mills.

Anti-dumping duties on import of raw silk

2363. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of raw-silk imported from various countries of the world, country-wise, during the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has made any representation to Government for imposing anti-dumping duties against any country in the last five years; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Details are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Many States including the State of Andhra Pradesh represented to the Government of India for taking measures for providing protection to sericulturists against surge of raw silk imports at low prices from China, which disrupted the domestic market. During July 2002 a petition was filed by Cottage/Filature/Multi-end silk reelers' and sericulture farmers' Associations before the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) alleging dumping of Mulberry raw silk originating in or exported from China and requesting for initiation of anti-dumping investigation and levy of anti-dumping duties. On the basis of investigations held in the matter by DGAD anti-dumping duty has been imposed by Government of India w.e.f. 2nd January, 2003 on all imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown) of international Grade 2A and below, originated in or exported from People's Republic of China, so as to keep the landed value of these goods at US \$ 27.97 per kg