

(xx) Textiles and Apparel

- FDI grew 2.2 times—from \$467 million (2011-14) to \$1047 million (2014-17).
- 8 Apparel and garment manufacturing centres set up North Eastern Region.
- Integrated Textile Office Complex set up at the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) in Varanasi.
- India Handloom Brand launched.
- Special Textile Package of INR 6000 crore approved, to attract investment of USD 11 billion and create one crore jobs.
- 200 new production units have come up in existing textile parks in the last two years generating jobs for 11,000 persons.
- 9.5 lakh people trained.

(xxi) Tourism

- e-Visa Scheme extended to 161 countries, 2.5 times increase in e-visa arrivals in 2015-16.
- 26.2% growth in Foreign exchange Earnings:— from INR 2.3 trillion (2012-14) to INR 2.9 trillion (2014-16).
- Swadesh Darshan launched – 13 theme tourist circuits identified, 5 pan – India mega circuits identified, 56 projects worth INR 4823.91 crore underway.
- PRASAD launched-25 cities identified, 18 projects worth INR 488.45 crore underway.
- 12 Institutes of Hospitality Management has been sanctioned for North East, 4 institutes operationalized; Indian Culinary Institute setup at Tirupati.
- 1.85 lakh people trained under ‘Hunar se Rozgar Tak’ Scheme.

Incentives on export of labour intensive merchandise

976. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase incentives on export of labour intensive merchandise other than garments and apparels; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, duly considering that the step would help encourage employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has already increased the incentives during the mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) in December, 2017 for labour intensive merchandise in addition to garments and apparels. The focus has been to provide stimulus to such industries by increasing the benefits available under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS). The incentives have been increased by 2% across the board for labour intensive sectors leading to additional annual incentive of ₹ 4,567 crore. These labour intensive products/sectors include leather and footwear articles, Agriculture, fruits and vegetables, spices, carpets, marine products, hand tools, cutting tools and implements of metals, handloom, handicraft and coir and jute products and sports goods.

Policy to boost farm exports

977. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to roll out a comprehensive policy to boost farm exports by facilitating access of agricultural products to global markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the sops and incentives being offered to the farmers to enable them to come forward for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY) (a) and (b) The Government has comprehensive policies run by organization like DGFT, APEDA, MPEDA and other Commodity Boards to promote exports of agricultural products.

(c) The Department of Commerce has several schemes to promote exports, including exports of agricultural products, viz. Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) etc. In addition, assistance to the exporters of agricultural products is also available under the Export Promotion Schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Tea Board, Coffee Board and Spices Board. The incentives for exports under the various schemes of Department of Commerce are available to all exporters including farmers and farmer producer organisations.