

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) India's exports of textile and clothing sector (including handicrafts) have increased from US\$ 39.0 bn in 2016-17 to US\$ 39.2 bn in 2017-18. Performance of the textile and clothing sector can be analysed from second quarter onwards of this Financial Year.

(b) and (c) India's imports of textile and apparel have increased by 17% from US\$ 6.3 bn in 2016-17 to US\$ 7.3 bn in 2017-18. However, T&A import constitute only 2% in India's total import basket. Further, India is a net exporter of T&A products.

(d) Government has increased customs duty on different types of fabric, apparel, made-ups and carpets from 10% to 20% to curb textile and apparel imports in the country.

Impact of GST on handloom weavers

958. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom industry is badly hit due to the introduction of GST on handlooms and raw materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the rationale behind not providing price advantage and tax relief to the 4.3 million handloom weavers by the Government and keeping them at the same pedestal as powerlooms; and

(d) whether Government is considering relieving weavers from paying Goods and Services Tax (GST) on raw material, implement and finished products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (d) GST has been introduced by the Government of India to rationalise multiple taxes on goods and services and to bring transparency in the taxation system. Accordingly, it is applicable to the Textile sectors also, including handlooms. Turnover of most of the weavers does not exceed ₹ 20 lakh and hence exempted from registration under GST. GST is implemented through an Act of Parliament with States as equal partners in GST Council with Government of India.

Outstanding dues of small bullion parties

959. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state?

(a) whether Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHECIL) have sought the views of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) before releasing payment to small bullion parties whose cases are not under investigation;