

Decline in textiles exports due to GST

1896. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that overall textiles exports have been declining consistently since the introduction of GST;
- (b) if so, the steps taken during the last six months to improve the exports in textiles;
- (c) whether any request has been made to the Finance Ministry or any other Government agency to look into the problems being faced in the textile industry; and
- (d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) As per DGCI&S data, overall textiles and apparel exports including handicrafts have declined marginally from US\$ 21,163 mn. during July,16-Jan.,17 to US\$ 21,028 mn. in July,17-Jan.,18.

(b) Following steps have been taken by the Government to improve textile and apparel exports:—

- Enhanced rates of Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) from 2% to 4% for apparel and made-ups w.e.f. 1st November, 2017.
- Revised post-GST rates of Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) Scheme implemented with effect from 01.10.2017.
- Exemption of IGST on import under Advance Authorization and Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme.

(c) and (d) Following requests have been made to the Finance Ministry:—

- (i) Allocation of appropriate funds under RoSL for one time settlement of exporters' claim
- (ii) Faster and complete refund of Input Tax Credit

Continuation of ISDS

1897. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) has been continued after September, 2017;
- (b) if being continued, on what basis it has been extended; and

(c) till what time the ISDS has been extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) was continued after September, 2017 till November 30, 2017 on the basis of extension granted by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure *vide* its Office Memorandum No. 42(02)/PF-II/2014 dated 27.09.2017. Subsequently, the Government has, on 20.12.2017, approved a new scheme *viz.* "Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)" in place of ISDS for a period of three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

Guidelines on cultivation of BG-III variety cotton

1898. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the cultivation of BG-III cotton which is harming the bio-diversity in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any representation to ban or issue guidelines on the usage of this variety of cotton in view of anti bio-diversity protests; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the BG-III cotton does not have the approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) There are several media reports and complaints regarding the illegal/unauthorized cultivation of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) cotton (also referred as BG-III in some places) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(b) Several representations have been received by the Government requesting for ban of illegal cultivation of HT cotton. In order to investigate the matter of illegal cultivation of HT cotton in the country, a Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) has been constituted by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

(c) Yes, Sir. Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has not approved the cultivation of BG-III or HT cotton in India.