

High tariffs faced by Indian exporters in key markets such as EU as compared to zero duty access given to competing nations like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Turkey has affected export performance.

(c) Target for textile and apparel including handicrafts has been fixed at USD 51.585 bn for 2017-18. 63% of the export target has been achieved up to Jan., 18.

(d) No, Sir. To augment export in the textile sector, Government has already announced a Special Package for garments and made-ups for boosting exports and employment. Under the scheme of Rebate of State Levies, ₹ 1955 crore are released to exporters of garment and made-ups in the last 18 months. The rates under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) have been enhanced from 2% to 4% for apparel and made-ups *w.e.f.* 1st November, 2017 as these segments have higher potential to boost employment. Further, IGST has been exempted on import under Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG). Government is also providing interest rate subvention for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector and gives assistance to exporters under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.

Special category industry status in textile sector

3494. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government grants special category industry status to certain sectors under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the industry/sector which have been granted such status; and

(c) the achievements made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Handloom weavers in Odisha

3495. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers in Odisha and the number which have so far been brought into the co-operative fold;

(b) number of the weavers' co-operative societies which are moribund and schemes if any to reactivate these societies; and

(c) whether Government is aware about the influx of Mill manufactured printed sarees, which are copying the handloom design, and supplying them in the Odisha market, severely affecting the handloom sector, if so, what specific steps the Central Government has taken/proposes to take to save handloom industry and protect the livelihood of thousands of handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) As per Third Handloom Census 2009-10, there are 1,14,106 handloom weavers and allied workers in Odisha, out of which 71,692 are under the co-operative fold.

(b) and (c) 53 weavers co-operative societies in Odisha are moribund. For protecting the handloom sector from competition from the powerloom and mill made textiles and for development of the sector including co-operative societies, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has taken the following steps:—

- Weavers Service Centres are providing training to the weavers by disseminating improved techniques and new designs, arranging exhibitions, seminars, and workshops. They are also providing market support by arranging interface between the designers, producers and buyers.
- Looms and accessories are provided to the weavers to produce quality niche products to enhance their productivity thereby improving their earnings.
- Quality yarn is provided at mill gate price to the handloom weavers. Additionally, in order to facilitate handloom sector/weavers to compete with powerloom and mill sector, 10% price subsidy is provided on cotton, domestic silk and woollen hank yarn with quantity restrictions.
- Bank loan is provided under Weaver MUDRA Scheme at concessional interest rate of 6%. Margin money up to ₹ 10,000/- and credit guarantee is also provided.
- National/Special Handloom Expos, District Level Events are organized to provide marketing platform to the weavers. Weavers are also facilitated to participate in various craft melas held in the different parts of the country

to sell the handloom products. E-commerce platform has been engaged as new marketing initiative to boost the handloom sector.

- India Handloom Brand has been launched for branding of high quality handloom products.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with reputed designers for working in the handloom clusters and design fashionable garments using the local woven fabrics.
- Initiative with various leading brands has been undertaken to bring out a separate range of handloom garments in their brand. BIBA, Peter England and ONAYA have launched separate range of handloom garments.

Employment in textile parks

3496. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- whether violation of norms and under achievement of targeted employment has been reported from various textiles parks of India;
- if so, the State-wise list of such parks and details of violation of norms; and
- if so, the details of targeted and achieved employment of such parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) Government of India is implementing the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) which provides support for creation of world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up of textile units. Government grant upto ₹ 40.00 crores per park is released in instalments, subject to the progress achieved in creation of infrastructure and common facilities. No specific norms have been prescribed for generation of employment under the guidelines. Generation of employment is monitored under the scheme to assess outcomes. The State-wise details of completed textile parks under the scheme and the employment generated are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Name of the park	Actual Employment
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Brandix India Apparel City Private Limited, Visakhapatnam	19000
2.	Gujarat	Gujarat Eco Textile Park Limited, Surat	10370
		Mundra SEZ Textile and Apparel Park Limited, Kutch.	810