

(MEIS) have been enhanced from 2% to 4% for apparel, 5% to 7% for made-ups, handloom and handicrafts *w.e.f.* 1st November 2017. Products such as fibre, yarn and fabric in the textile value chain are being strengthened and made competitive through various schemes, *inter alia*, Powertex for fabric segment, Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) for all segments except spinning, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) for all segments, etc. IGST has been exempted on import under Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme. Government has also enhanced interest equalization rate for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector from 3% to 5% *w.e.f.* 02.11.2018 and provides assistance to exporters under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.

Increasing import duty on all textile items

2400. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has doubled the import duty on all textile items;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the move has benefited the domestic manufacturers of these products;
- (d) whether some countries still enjoy duty free access to Indian markets; and
- (e) if so, whether it will adversely impact the domestic manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government has doubled the import duty on 504 textile items including 22 fabric, 383 apparel, 75 carpets, 9 made-ups and 15 others textile items.

(c) As, the duty has been increased in July and August 2018, its impact on domestic industry can be assessed only after two quarters post August 2018.

(d) and (e) India has granted duty free status to Bangladesh under SAFTA and has given duty free Tariff Rate Quota on eight million apparel pieces to Sri Lanka. Duty free access has been granted keeping in view the bilateral relations with these countries which provide access to each other's markets on reciprocal basis. Due to trade agreements, India had a textile and apparel trade surplus of US\$ 1,911 mn and US\$ 505 mn with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka respectively during 2017-18.
