

Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMPRPY) are 5,59,584. State-wise detail is as follows:

State	Registered employees
Andhra Pradesh	14,715
Chandigarh	1,266
Delhi	7,484
Gujarat	10,603
Haryana	94,042
Karnataka	1,35,239
Kerala	14,945
Madhya Pradesh	7,455
Maharashtra	4,207
Punjab	8,812
Rajasthan	4,396
Tamil Nadu	1,94,726
Uttar Pradesh	57,106
Uttarakhand	364
West Bengal	4,224
TOTAL	5,59,584

(b) The quantum of funds allocated under this scheme from the year 2016-17 to 2018-19 is ₹ 240 crore.

(c) and (d) There is no specific requirement of Aadhaar linkage with PAN under PMPRPY.

Exempting GST for handloom sector

1115. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government is considering exempting Goods and Services Tax (GST) for handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): GST has been introduced by the Government of India to rationalize 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 they do not require registration under GST. Handloom weavers are paying GST on the hank yarn but unregistered weavers are not eligible to claim the Input Tax Credit at the time of fabric sale. This reduces profit margin of the weavers.

Ministry of Textile has taken up the matter with Department of Revenue that yarn in hank form utilized by handloom sector may be exempted from GST. It has been requested that like Khadi fabric, Handloom fabric sold through outlets of National and State level Government Handloom Corporations and State level APEX Handloom Societies may also be exempted from GST.

Quality of cotton in the country

†1116. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large quantity of cotton is imported every year due to less and substandard quality of cotton in the country;
- (b) if so, the country-wise details of imported cotton during last two years; and
- (c) whether efforts are being made by Government to increase the produce of cotton and improve its quality as per international standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) No, Sir. India does not import large quantity of cotton. However, some domestic spinning mills in India are importing Extra-Long Staple (ELS)/Short Staple variety of cotton to meet their specific requirements as production of these varieties is less in India. The total quantity imported during the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 is 30.93 and 15.79 lakh bales respectively as against 364.57 and 382.44 lakh bales of consumptions which is 8.33 and 4.12 per cent of total consumption.

(b) Details showing country-wise import of cotton in India during last two years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has consistently been promoting several measures like technology mission on cotton, High Density Planting System, instrument based quality evaluation etc. for improving the quality, productivity and production of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.