

- Cost of Jute pulp is 30-40% less than conventionally used wood pulp.
- Manufacturing cost on semi-automatic set up comes to ₹ 3-4/sanitary napkin pad whereas fully automatic set up will bring down the price further in comparison to the sanitary napkin made out of wood pulp.
- Only 12-13% and 6-7% of annual jute fibre and jute stick production respectively would be enough to meet the total requirement of SN in the country

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Currently, the pilot project being envisaged for jute sanitary napkin is expected to produce 1.0 lakh jute sanitary napkins per day. The project will assist farmers in getting remunerative price to jute farmers and will enhance women employment generation.

(e) The special incentives will be decided after the implementation of pilot project.

#### **Duty free access to neighbouring countries**

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

(a) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the impact of duty free access status granted to neighbouring countries in textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether domestic manufacturers raised concern/objection on granting of duty free access to neighbouring countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Government has assessed the impact of duty free access granted to neighbouring countries in textiles sector. Countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Pakistan have been granted zero duty access by biggest apparel consuming market *i.e.* EU while India faces a duty disadvantage of up to 9.6%.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Industry has raised concerns on duty free access granted to neighbouring countries. To improve competitiveness of Indian exporters, Government has announced a special package for garments and made-ups sectors. The package offers Rebate of State Levies (RoSL), labour law reforms, additional incentives under ATUFS and relaxation of Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act. Further, the rates under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (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. Assistance is also provided to exporters under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme. Further, Government has enhanced interest equalization rate for pre and post shipment credit for exports done by MSMEs of textile sector from 3% to 5% w.e.f. 02.11.2018. Benefits of Interest Equalization Scheme has also been extended to merchant exporters from 2019 which was earlier limited to only manufacturer exporters.

#### **Transfer of land to BMRCL for metro construction**

438. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether request from Government of Karnataka has been received in the Ministry for transfer of 9900 square metre of land belonging to Central Silk Board, Madivala, Bengaluru to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for metro construction; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and what steps Ministry has taken to transfer land to BMRCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) BMRCL *vide* letter dated 15.06.2017 proposed to acquire Central Silk Board (CSB), Madiwala, Bengaluru land to the extent of 9943 square metres for the Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-2 and compensate @ ₹74,500/- per square metre. Ministry of Textiles had conveyed approval for the same to CSB. The Government of