

case by CBI is still not concluded, it is not possible at this stage to consider the release of payments to other bullion parties as any adverse outcome in the CBI case against ECL may have implications in other cases.

Setting up of CCI branch at Bhawanipatna, Odisha

2849. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has any plan to open a branch at Bhawanipatna, Odisha, the epicentre of cotton production in Odisha, to extend MSP support for the benefit of cotton growing farmers;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) the steps taken for providing necessary support to establish modern spinning mills for the interest of cotton farmers of the State; and

(d) whether the ICAR, Ministry of Agriculture has any plans to upgrade the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Plan (AICCIP) sub-centre to a full fledged AICCIP centre at Bhawanipatna?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Limited has already established branch office at Rayagada in the State of Odisha and has opened adequate procurement centres to cover maximum cotton farmers in the State. Bhawanipatana (District Headquarter of Kalahandi District) does not have any market yard and hence, the cotton farmers of Bhawanipatana bring their cotton to nearby Regulated Market Yards (RMC) viz, Kesinga and Karlapadu where the Corporation has already opened its procurement centres.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) Government does not establish modern spinning mills in any part of the country. However, Government has extended financial assistance for upgradation of technology to spinning factories under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme. Further, to safeguard the interest of cotton farmers and to give them remunerative price of their produce, Government nominated Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), as nodal agency to undertake Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations of seed cotton

(kapas) in all cotton growing States, in the event when prices touches the MSP level. During the crop year 2018-19, CCI procured 0.25 lakh bales of seed cotton (kapas) under MSP in Odisha State.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture has already upgraded the centre of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Cotton at Bhawaipatna from Voluntary Centre to Main Centre during 2017-18.

Decline in production of textiles

2850. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for decline in the textiles and handloom/handicraft industries;
- (b) whether Government has a concrete plan for revival of textiles and handloom/handicraft industries; and
- (c) the details of the proposed plan for artisans/labourers engaged in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Indian textile industry is the second largest manufacturer and exporter in the world. The share of textile and clothing (T&C) in India's total exports stands at a significant 13% in 2017-18. India has a share of 5% of the global trade in textiles and apparel. Further, the Indian Textile Industry has inherent linkage with agriculture and with the culture and traditions of the country making for its versatile spread of products appropriate for both domestic and the export markets. The textile industry contributes to 7% of industry output in value terms, 2% of India's GDP and to 15% of the country's export earnings. As such, there appears no concrete report for decline in the textiles and handloom/handicrafts industries.

Government is implementing various policy initiatives and schemes for supporting the development of textile industry. These schemes and initiatives which promote technology upgradation, creation of infrastructure, skill development and sectoral development in the textile sector, create a conducive environment and provide enabling conditions for textile manufacturing in the country.