

(d) whether the Ministry has studied the total investment generated in the textile sector through ATUFS since the inception of the scheme and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Indian textile sector faces competition from Bangladesh and Vietnam which enjoy duty free access to key markets like EU while India's exports face a duty disadvantage. Besides, Bangladesh and Vietnam have the benefit of economies of scale in textile manufacturing and a large and productive labour force. Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), implemented with effect from 13.01.2016, has a provision to meet the committed liabilities of its previous scheme versions in addition to the new sanctions. A total of ₹6717.18 crore has been released under the scheme during 2015-16 to 2019-20. A total of 9641 applications, covering employment of 2.86 lakh persons and investment of ₹ 40026.50 crore submitted by textile units, have been issued with UIDs till January, 2020.

Mandatory packaging of foodgrains in jute bags

615. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is making it mandatory to package all foodgrains in jute bags;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the proposed step will boost the economy of textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, Government specifies the commodities and the extent to which they are mandatorily required to be packed in Jute Packaging Materials. At present, 100% of foodgrains and a minimum of 20% of sugar are to be compulsorily packed in jute bags. This step will assist in sustenance of jute industry and the percentage fixed for packaging of foodgrains has been continued from the previous year.

Skill training under SAMARTH scheme in Maharashtra

†616. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people who have been given skill training under SAMARTH Scheme in the districts under Konkan region of Maharashtra during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.