

(c) Reduced sales, closure of three showrooms of the company in Mumbai due to steep increase in showroom rentals on account of implementation of The Maharashtra Rent Control Act, 1999 and resulting excess manpower were the primary reasons for incurring losses in the company during 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Intervention in cotton trading policies

3010. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Indian Mills Association (SIMA) has urged the Ministry of Textiles to intervene in cotton trading policies of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI);

(b) if so, in what manner Government is planning to intervene; and

(c) whether Government plans to regulate the price to make the market competitive?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation was received from Chairman, South Indian Mills Association (SIMA) requesting to direct Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Limited to offer cotton at the prevailing market prices through e-auction on a regular basis and avoid hoarding huge volume of cotton. In this regard, it is stated that CCI is undertaking Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations when prices of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) grade kapas fall below the MSP level and procures entire quantity of FAQ grade kapas offered by the cotton farmers in various Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) yards at MSP rate. The FAQ grade cotton procured under MSP operations is superior quality which is of higher value. The cotton procured by CCI under MSP operations is made available to the industry on daily basis through e-auction. The system is transparent and CCI's pricing policy is value based.

It has always been the endeavour of CCI to ensure availability of good quality cotton at competitive rates to domestic textile industry including MSME units, Co-operatives and Institutional buyers. In order to enable the mills to procure cotton at competitive prices, CCI has introduced bulk discount scheme for 2018-19 stock which is applicable on purchase of minimum quantity of 500 bales. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), KVIC and Co-operative mills are entitled to avail discount on

buying a minimum quantity of even 100 bales. Under this scheme, the mills can avail discount of ₹ 3200 per candy to ₹ 5000 per candy depending upon quantity purchased.

- (c) Does not arise in view of above.

Shopping Festival for uplifting consumer sentiments

3011. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating on introducing Shopping Festival System in the country for uplifting consumer sentiments to tide over the economic slump in the textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the suggestions made by the textile traders in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Pilot shopping festival at Bengaluru is proposed to be organized in FY 2020-21, which will subsequently be organized in other cities focusing on following sectors:—

- Gems and Jewellery
- Textiles
- Handicrafts
- Leather and Non Leather
- Carpets and
- Yoga and Ayurvedic products

In addition to above focus sectors, the products to be showcased will include:

- Tribal products/handicrafts
- Products from Jammu and Kashmir, North East States and other Hill States.

(c) Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) will play a lead role in the mega shopping festival. All EPCs will promote sector-wise activities.