

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1237
ANSWERED ON- 29/07/2021

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TEXTILE AND APPAREL SECTOR

1237. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the textile and apparel sector has become the most severely affected among manufacturing sectors due to the novel coronavirus pandemic;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to help this sector, particularly the workers; and
- (c) the steps taken to boost not only demand for textile and apparel but also supply of raw material and other assistance like technological support?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH)

(a) & (b): The global pandemic of Covid-19 affected various industrial sectors in the country including the textile and apparel sector. The government has taken following initiatives/ measures to help ameliorate the conditions in textile sector to boost production, marketing and job opportunities in the sector on pan-India:

- i) Government has given its approval for continuation of Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) on exports of Apparel/Garments and Made-ups till 31st March 2024. The other textiles products which are not covered under the RoSCTL shall be eligible to avail the benefits, if any, under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) along with other products. The remission of duty and tax under RoSCTL and RoDTEP scheme will make our products cost competitive in the international markets.
- ii) The Government has announced a special economic package viz. AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan for boosting economy of the country and making India self-reliant. Relief and credit support measures have been announced for various sectors including MSMEs. The weavers & artisans of textile sector can avail benefits of these relief and credit support measures.
- iii) Union Budget 2021-22 announcements include launch of the scheme of setting up mega investment textile parks. Seven mega textile parks will be set up in next three years. These parks will enable the textile industry to become globally competitive, attract large investment and boost employment generation. The scheme will enable creation of global champions in exports.
- iv) The government has announced a Production Linked Investment scheme of Rs 10,683/- crore over a five-year period covering MMF and Technical Textiles sector which will create global champions in exports. Besides, domestic production in textile sector will also grow substantially.

- v) Ministry of Textiles has undertaken to develop Craft Villages in select Handloom and Handicraft pockets of the country on important tourist circuits for integrated sustainable development of Handlooms, crafts and tourism with the combined effort of both the State and the Central Governments. 12 such craft villages are in the process of being set up now.
 - vi) To support the handloom and handicraft sectors and to enable wider market for handloom weavers/artisans/producers, steps have been taken to on-board weavers/artisans on Government e-Market place (GeM) to enable them to sell their products directly to various Government Departments and organizations. So far, about 1.75 Lakh weavers and artisans have been on-boarded on the GeM portal.
 - vii) Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) has been organizing International Fairs in virtual mode, facilitating marketing and sales of Handloom Products in the domestic as well as international markets. During the year 2020-21, 12 handloom fairs were organized by HEPC in virtual mode. The fairs have been attracting considerable attention from both domestic as well as international business entities. Besides, 53 domestic marketing events were also organized in different parts of the country for the weavers to market and sell their products. During August-October 2020, 534 number of Chaupals were organized in various States to apprise the weavers about benefits under various handloom schemes.
 - viii) Design Resource Centres (DRCs) have been set up in Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) at various locations in the country, through NIFT with the objective to build and create design-oriented excellence in the Handloom Sector and to facilitate weavers, exporters, manufacturers and designers access design repositories for sample/product improvisation and development.
 - ix) Under the Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS) – ‘SAMARTH’- a special provision for “online Training of Trainers” program was introduced to make available trainers to the Implementing Partners of the scheme. A total of about 1200 trainers have been trained under Samarth through online mode since March 2020. Further, upon relaxing the restrictions for skill development by the Government in September 2020; Ministry of Textiles has provided skill training (Entry level / Upskilling) to about 25,000 beneficiaries under Samarth so far and 13,600 beneficiaries are presently undergoing training.
- (c): In order to ensure adequate availability of raw material at competitive price in the country, Government has removed anti-dumping duty on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) (a key material for the manufacture of Man Made Fibre(MMF) and yarn) originated in or exported from various countries. Government has also removed anti-dumping duty on acrylic fibre (raw material for acrylic yarn and knitwear industry) originated in or exported from Thailand to India.

In light of the extraordinary circumstances witnessed in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, to augment liquidity support, opportunity for advance release of Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFFS) subsidy to the units was extended against submission of Bank Guarantee (BG) for recommended claims under TUFFS/Amended-TUFFS from April 2020 to October 2020. The measure is aimed at reviving the industry by restoring financial viability and addressing pressing concerns faced by units regarding liquidity and fund availability.
