

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request to open a cotton research centre in Surendranagar district.

DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA (SURENDRANAGAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modiji to establish a Mega Integrated Textile Park at Surendranagar. My district of Surendranagar consists of nine Taluks, five Municipalities, one Joint Municipality of Surendranagar-Wadhwan, six cities and about 672 villages with a population of about 18 lakhs. Geographically, the main branch of the Narmada Canal is passing through Surendranagar district and it supplies water to all districts of Saurashtra and Kutch. So, sufficient quantity of water is available in my district. The district has a socially peaceful environment. There are two airports within a range of 100 km. from Surendranagar and they are, Ahmedabad and Rajkot. There are three ports namely, Gandhidham, Mundra and Pipawa and they are all within a range of 250 km. Two National Highways are passing through my district.

Sir, in my district, textile, pharmaceutical and ceramic industrial units are there. But we are still dependent on agriculture. Cotton cultivation in my district is the highest in the country since Independence. Cotton is cultivated in more than 5 lakh hectares of land. Ginning and spinning units are functioning there for more than 50 years. At present, about 40 ginning units, 50 spinning units and 30 textile machinery spare part units are running in my district. In addition to this, textile-related raw material of cotton is produced in large quantity, textile machinery spare parts are being manufactured and export facility is also available in Surendranagar. A cotton-related trade house is active for more than 50 years. In 2002, Narendra Modiji visited my district and gave a slogan, 'Farm to Fabric, Fabric to Fashion and Fashion to Foreign'.

So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to establish a cotton research centre in my district which will solve many problems of the people of our area. We will double the income of farmers, prevent migration of skilled labour due to unemployment and we will also be able to utilise our land better.

23.00 hrs