

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : Regarding inclusion of Natural Fibers in Textile PLI Scheme.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH (KAKINADA): The Union Government approved the textile sector Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Program last year. Along with measures such as Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies and the Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products, this move was intended to herald a new era in the textile industry by providing raw materials at competitive prices, skill development, and other benefits, while boosting domestic manufacturing and lowering import bills.

The scheme provided incentives worth Rs 10,683 crore over a five-year period to boost the manufacture of high-value manmade fiber fabrics, apparel, and technological textiles. However, in this pursuit to push manufacturing of high-value manmade fiber fabrics, the natural fibers that are produced by plants, animals and geological processes, and are recyclable and biodegradable in nature have largely been ignored by the policymakers.

With right policies in place, new, expensive and exotic fabrics can be developed by natural fibers, promising high return to the farmers.

Especially, in our State, the weaving of Patnulu Khadi, which happened to have impressed Gandhiji when he visited the area in the early 1920s, can be turned into a thriving enterprise. As a result, it is critical for the Union Government to expand the scope of the proposed Phase II of the Textile PLI Scheme to include natural fibres in order to ensure doubling of farmers' income.