

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct a National Highway from Basti Siddharth Nagar in Uttar Pradesh which is adjacent to Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Gautam Buddha which is visited by thousands of pilgrims from Japan, China and Sri Lanka every Year;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constructed;

(c) if no, whether the Government propose to provide funds under the Central Road Fund Scheme to widen and develop the road from Bansī to Basti Siddharth Nagar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT: (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Textile

Increase in Prices of Cotton Yarn

*725. **SHRI DHARMANNA MON-QAYYA SADUL:**
DR. G.L. KANAUJIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented increase in prices of cotton yarn during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be

taken by the Government to control prices of cotton yarn and to bring the same to pre-March 1991 level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of all counts of cotton yarn have gone up during the last few months.

(b) The increase in the prices of hank yarn during the period March-August, 1991 varies from about 6% to 17% and in the case of cone yarn varies from about 15% to about 44%. The main reasons for increase in the prices of cotton yarn has been the rise in prices of raw cotton due to the decline in its production caused by unfavourable weather conditions and severe pest attack in certain cotton growing areas of the country. There were also increases in the cost of other inputs like power, wages and bank credit.

(c) Steps taken by Government to check the rise in the prices of cotton yarn include adoption of a cautious policy on export of cotton and cotton yarn, directions to mills of NTC to re-orient their production to increase the production of yarn of counts below 40s, stepping up of supply of yarn to handloom weavers by National Handloom Development Corporation, de-hoarding operations to be undertaken by the machinery of Textile Commissioner, activating of yarn prices fixation Committees by State Governments and streamlining of distribution mechanism by state Agencies.

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Establishment of a bench of a Supreme Court in South

*726. **SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand to establish a bench of Supreme Court in the South; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) Representations/ suggestions have been made from time to time for establishing benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the country, including in the South.

(b) According to article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. No final decision has so far been taken in this regard.

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Achievement and Targets of Textile Exports

*727. **SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the export of textiles, as against the target fixed, during each of the last three years;

(b) the net revenue thus earned by the Government during the above period;

(c) whether there is a great scope for increasing the export of textiles; and

(d) If so, the details of the possibilities explored in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). A statement showing

the targets and the corresponding export earnings during the period 1988-89 to 1990-91 is attached.

(c) Government are of the view that there is good scope for improving India's textiles and clothing exports, though the quota regime which governs India's textile and clothing exports to some of the major destinations like United States of America and European Economic Community, limits, to some extent, the scope for such an improvement,

(d) The Government have taken the following steps to increase our exports:-

- i) Modernisation of industry by allowing import of sophisticated textile machinery items at concessional duty.
- ii) Enhanced and liberalised REP licensing scheme (now known as Eximscript Scheme).
- iii) Adjustment of value of rupee against major foreign currencies.
- iv) Increase of non-quota export entitlement in respect of garments from 3% in 1990 to 10% in the current Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy.
- v) Organising Buyer-seller Meets and Study Tours.
- vi) Liberalised import of trimming and embellishments etc required by garment exporters.