

Need to withdraw the Import duty on cotton ? laid

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (TIRUPPUR): Textile and Apparel Sector in India is facing a historically unprecedented financial crisis. This sector provides major employment. Minister of Textile reports that 45 million people are directly employed and 60 million are employed in the allied Industries. Since 2014, these sectors have suffered a severe setback. Global market share of textile and apparel has declined significantly. This is due to neglect and wrong policies and Demonetisation, GST, high cost of power, fluctuating cost of cotton and polyester yarn etc. The 11% import duty imposed on cotton has created uneven competition in International Market. Policies on Polyester Manufacturing Sector and Man-made Fibre add to the crisis. Russia Ukraine war, International Financial Crisis, inflation etc have been also impacted. Banks refuse fresh credit to textile mills at a time when they most need financial support. In order to save the industry, measures such as production of cotton yarn and Value Added Products through NTC mills, withdrawal of import duty of 11% on cotton, extension of moratorium on EMI offered for 3 years to 6 years is needed. Extension of one year moratorium to repay principal amount and provision of fresh loans through banks may be made. Policies may be made in consultation with the Textile Manufacturers Associations.