

(c) and (d) The Wool Research Association (WRA) has submitted a report on the rehabilitation of BIC Woolen Mills. The matter regarding future strategy for these mills taking into consideration the WRA report is presently under consideration of the Government.

[English]

#### **New Textile Policy**

2204. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :  
 SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :  
 SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :  
 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :  
 DR. ASIM BALA :  
 SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :  
 SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :  
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :  
 RAO INDERJIT SINGH :  
 SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :  
 SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Export Group for formulation of a new textile policy has since been constituted;

(b) if so, its composition and the terms of reference; and

(c) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the said group?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The Committee has been asked to submit its report within a period of six months.

#### **Statement**

1. **The composition of the Expert Committee constituted vide Resolution No.8/7/98-TPC dated 24.7.98 is as follows:-**

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|--|------------|
| 1. Shri S.R. Sathyam, Retired Secretary,<br>Ministry of Textiles | - Chairman |
| 2. Chairman, Industrial Development Bank of<br>India, Mumbai     | - Member   |
| 3. Dr. T.V. Ratnam, Adviser, SITRA,<br>Coimbatore.               | - Member   |
| 4. Shri A.N. Jariwala  | - Member   |
| 5. Shri Sanjay S. Lalbhai, M/s Arvind Mills<br>Ltd., Ahmedabad   | - Member   |
| 6. Dr. Omkar Goswami, Editor, Business<br>India, Mumbai          | - Member   |

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| 7. Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director General,<br>NCAER, New Delhi                                  | - Member          |
| 8. Development Commissioner (Handlooms)   | - Member          |
| 9. Shri B.D. Jethra, Adviser, Planning<br>Commission  | - Member          |
| 10. Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Director, National Institute<br>of Public Finance & Policy, New Delhi | - Member          |
| 11. Shri Ajay G. Piramal, Chairman, Morarjee<br>Goculdas Spg. & Wvg. Co. Ltd., Mumbai       | - Member          |
| 12. Textile Commissioner, Mumbai  | - Member<br>Secy. |

#### **II. Terms of Reference**

- To review and evaluate the impact of the existing Textile Policy and identify the changes that are necessary, particularly in terms of the new imperatives of international competition.
- To evolve a new set of policy guidelines with a view to obtaining the best productivity form each sector and from each segment of the textile industry after taking a holistic view of the textile sector covering:- (i) All products (all fibers and value-added products resulting therefrom); (ii) All activities (spinning, weaving, processing, finishing and packaging); and (iii) All sectors (organised mills, powerlooms and handlooms).
- To suggest policy measures for the textile industry to focus on the changes resulting from overall trade policy reform and specifically the dismantling of the Multi-Fibre Agreement on Textiles and Clothings (MFA) and the associated non-tariff barriers. Such policy measures would, inter-alia, include measures for upgradation of (a) Products including facilitation for establishing branded products, (b) Technology, (c) Financial arrangements, (d) Market development including brand promotion and (e) Human resource development in the textile industry.
- To examine the competitiveness of the various segments of the textile industry with respect to their international counter-parts and to suggest policy prescriptions to improve the competitive edge of each segment and to suggest measures for strengthening the fundamentals of each of the economic spheres of the textile industry. This would include a study of the specific role to be assigned for different fibers.
- To suggest policy measures to aid the restructuring of the textile industry with a view to attaining international competitiveness by the year 2005.
- To examine the existing industrial policy including foreign direct investment policies, as well as fiscal and trade policies with reference to the textile industry and suggest

necessary changes for modernization and growth in the industry.

7. To review the existing system of control and regulation in the textile sector and suggest changes, wherever necessary, for promoting productivity and encouraging growth in all the sectors of the textile industry.
8. To evolve a comprehensive policy and strategy for developing human resources in all activities in the textile sector including production technologies, designs, marketing skills and information technology. This should also include an examination of the present scenario of the policy measures required in the area for the attainment of international competitiveness in the textile industry.
9. To review the measures taken so far for tackling sickness in the textile industry and to make suggestions for improving the economic viability of the textile industry as also to identify steps which would be necessary to prevent and tackle sickness in the industry, including the need for structural adjustments through re-deployment of labour and capital.
10. To examine the desirability of establishing dedicated financing arrangements to cater specifically to the needs of the textile industry.

**Trade with Foreign Countries**

2205. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :  
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the countries which have shown their interest to boost trade with India during the last six months, particularly after Pokhran Test;

(b) whether any trade agreements have been signed between India and these foreign countries during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (d) a statement is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A formal Trade Agreement between India & Scyhelles has been signed on 18/9/98 in an endeavour to boost bilateral trade between the two countries.

India and Russia have negotiated a "Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Scientific & Technological Cooperation".

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Countries who have shown keen interest in expanding trade relations with India during the last six months.	Proposals received and Details
1	2	3

1	2	3
1.	Myanmar New Zealand Australia Malaysia Philippines Indonesia Thailand Vietnam and Singapore	These countries have generally been keen to expand trade relations with India. Specific proposals discussed include proposal for Bilateral and border trade with Myanmar, establishment of a Joint Working Group on Energy with Australia, finalisation of a Bilateral Quarantine Agreement with New Zealand and entering into a trade agreement with Malaysia.
2.	Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of China (Taiwan), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea and Mongolia.	Trade exchanges with these countries have taken place through visits of trade delegations, meetings of JBC's etc.
3.	Russia	The Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission met in Moscow on 26-28 Nov., 98 and inter alia, discussed several issues relating to expansion of trade relations between the two countries.
4.	Belarus	The Joint Commission meeting was held on 26-27 Oct., 98 at Minsk and wide ranging issues on enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation were discussed.
5.	Central Asia	Discussions in progress with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan for a meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission in the next few weeks. This is expected to give a boost to trade relations with these Countries.
6.	Zimbabwe, Kenya  Seychelles	The Joint Trade Committees have been held at Harare and New Delhi respectively.  A formal trade agreement between India and Seychelles has been