

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6860
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003
EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS IN TEXTILES
SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the United States of America has approached the World Trade Organisation representing that India has achieved export competitiveness in textiles and apparels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the likely effect on Indian textile exports after achievement of `Export Competitiveness` in textiles and apparel export by India ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL))

(a) to (c): The United States had on 31st January 2003 requested WTO's Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures that the export competitiveness of textile and apparel exports from India be determined on the basis of a computation undertaken by the WTO Secretariat in accordance with Article 27.6(b) of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM). The products for which the request was made included all textiles and apparel products under Harmonized System Nomenclature chapters 50-59 and 60-63. The computation was requested to be made at both the two and four digit section headings for each of these chapters. It was further requested by the US that export competitiveness calculation be performed for 1996 and each subsequently completed year.

The Government is carefully examining the report and considering various options under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. It would be too early to assess the likely effect, as this matter has not yet been formally discussed in the ASCM Committee of WTO.