

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1454

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2005

GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Garment Technology Expo was held in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the technology the Indian Companies found ideal for India in the said Expo in view of post quota regime and WTO restriction on textile trade; and

(c) the steps taken for promotion of textile industry?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. "Garment Technology Expo 2005" was held in New Delhi from 21-24 January 2005, showcasing the latest garment technology to enable Indian garment manufacturers to exercise appropriate technology options to cash in on the opportunities of quota free regime.

(c) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen the Indian textile industry to meet the emerging global competition. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

ii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

iii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

iv) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.

v) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition. Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain including cotton textile and cotton clothing items have been given excise exemption option. Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.

vii) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores. In the Union Budget 2005-06, an announcement has been made for de-reservation of 30 hosiery items from the SSI.

viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.