

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:594

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010

POLICY FOR COTTON AND SILK

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a proactive cotton policy and level playing field to textile industry in order to compete with other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban cotton and silk exports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SMT. PANABAAGA LAKSHMI)

(a): Yes Madam.

(b): The Government of India has constituted a working Group to formulate a National Fiber Policy. The Ministry of Textile is the nodal Ministry and Secretary (Textiles) is the Chairperson of the said Working Group. The Terms of Reference, inter-alia, laid down the emphasis on self sufficiency in the fiber not only to meet its own demand for internal consumption, but also for exports of fiber as also of the value added finished products. It also lays down the issue of promoting all fibers (which also include cotton fiber)

(c): No Madam

(d): Does not arise in view of above

(e): As per Cotton Balance Sheet drawn by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), during cotton season 2008-09, total demand of cotton in the country is 229 lakh bales against the total production of 290 lakh bales. Since there is sufficient stock of cotton in the country, question of banning cotton export does not arise at present. As regards silk, the country is getting good earning from export of silk to the tune of 691.06 U.S. \$ (during 2008-09), therefore, the Government has no plans to ban the export of silk at present.