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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR
(2014-2015)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

**[Action Taken by the Government on the
Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in
their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants
(2014-15)]**

SIXTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

April, 2015/Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

[Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2014-15)]

Presented to Lok Sabha on 23rd April, 2015

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23rd April, 2015



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

April, 2015/Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR
(2014-15)**

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR-CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Rajesh Kumar Diwakar
3. Shri Ashok Dohare
4. Shri Satish Chandra Dubey
5. Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai Fatepara
6. Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud
7. Shri Rama Chandra Hansdah
8. Shri C.N. Jayadevan
9. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
10. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
11. Shri Hari Manjhi
12. Shri R. Parthipan
13. Shri Hariom Singh Rathore
14. Shri YS Avinash Reddy
15. Shri Naba Kumar Sarania (Hira)
16. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
17. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav
- *18. Chh. Udayan Raje Bhonsle
- **19. Dr. Arun Kumar
- ***20. Vacant
- ****21. Vacant

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri D. Bandyopadhyay
23. Shri P. Kannan
24. Shri Aayanur Manjunatha
25. Haji Abdul Salam
26. Shri Tapan Kumar Sen
27. Shri R.K. Sinha
- ***** 28. Shri Rajaram
- ***** 29. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma
- ***** 30. Shri P.L. Punia
- ***** 31. Vacant

-
- * Nominated w.e.f. 7th October, 2014.
- ** Nominated w.e.f. 25th March, 2015.
- *** Vacancy occurred *vice* Shri Giriraj Singh appointed as Minister for State w.e.f 9th November, 2014
- **** Vacancy occurred *vice* Shri Kapil Krishna Thakur expired on 13.10.2014.
- ***** Re-nominated w.e.f. 8th January, 2015.
- ***** Nominated w.e.f.29th January, 2015.
- ***** Nominated w.e.f 12th March, 2015.
- ***** Vacancy occurred *vice* Shri G.N. Ratanpuri retired from Rajya Sabha w.e.f 15.2.2015.

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ashok Sajwan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D.R. Mohanty | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Smt. Archana Srivastva | - | Under Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Labour (2014-15) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Sixth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Second Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 15th December, 2014. The Ministry of Textiles furnished their replies on 16th April, 2015 indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report. The Committee at their sitting held on 22nd April, 2015 considered and adopted the Draft Report.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

4. For the facility of reference and convenience Recommendations/Observations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
22nd April, 2015
Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR
CHAIRPERSON
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

CHAPTER-I**REPORT**

This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2014. It contained 11 Recommendations/Observations. Replies of Government in respect of all the recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

(i)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government – Para Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10	Total: 09 percentage:81.8
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply – NIL	-
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration – Para No. 6	Total:01 Percentage:9.1
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature- Para No.11	Total:01 Percentage:9.1

3. The Committee desire that Action Taken Note in respect of Recommendations/Observations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies in respect of the recommendation contained in Chapter V for which interim reply has been given by the Government may be furnished to them at the earliest.

Utilisation of Funds

(Recommendation para No. 1)

4. Taking note of a number of measures taken by the Ministry to ensure receipt of sufficient number of proposals in 2014-15 to maximise utilisation of the allocated funds, the Committee in their Second Report had impressed upon the Ministry to further strengthen the monitoring system and to intensify interaction with the State Government for the purpose.

5. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles have stated as follows:

"The Ministry has taken following initiatives to ensure implementation of projects in time and thereby ensure utilization of funds as follows: -

- (i) Streamlining of procedures for implementation of schemes such as TUFs after extensive consultation with different stakeholders
- (ii) Revisions in Scheme guidelines/selection criteria in order to make the implementation more effective keeping in view the ground realities and strengthening and broad-basing the monitoring system.
- (iii) Initiating process of inviting application well in advance for timely sanction and release of funds.
- (iv) Stress on identification of suitable implementing agencies to ensure implementation and off take of funds
- (v) Ensuring submission of inspection reports from field formations on each activity implemented in their respective jurisdiction and basing these for decision to release of further installment/ grants or otherwise.
- (vi) Independent evaluation of schemes as well as different components there under is entrusted to professional agencies from

time to time in order to generate feedback about impact and steps needed to address identified concerns, if any.

As a result of these steps, the utilization of budgetary provisions during the year 2014-15 has improved. The release position as on 29.1.2015 shows that we have already spent Rs 2767.43 crores which account for 79.07 % of the RE of Rs 3500 crore fixed for the Ministry which is a significant improvement of 60.29% over the corresponding period of 2013-14".

6. The Committee are pleased to note that pursuant to their Recommendation and consequent upon a number of measures initiated by the Ministry, the utilisation of the budgetary provisions has considerably improved during 2014-15. The Committee desire that the measures embarked upon during 2014-15 be pursued vigorously and carried forward to the subsequent years for maximum utilisation of the budgetary allocations.

Filling up of vacancies

(Recommendation para No. 4)

7. The Committee in their earlier Report had observed that substantial amount of Rs.508 lakh was surrendered due to non-filling up of vacant posts. In view of the quantum of funds surrendered due to non-filling up of vacant posts, the Committee had impressed upon the Ministry to expedite the process of filling up of the vacant posts to the maximum extent possible so that funds allocated under the non-plan head were gainfully utilised during 2014-15 year and in future also.

8. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles stated as follows:

"The Ministry of Textiles has a sanctioned strength of 179 posts i.e. Group A-35 posts, Group-B(Gazetted)-25 posts, Group-B (Non-

Gazetted)-57 and Group-C-62 posts. At present 131 posts are filled up and 48 posts are lying vacant. The Ministry makes recruitment itself to the posts of Library & Information Assistant (1 post), Investigator (2 posts), Staff Car Drivers (4 posts), Junior Gestetner Operator(1 post) and MTS(22 posts), All these posts are filled up as on date. As regards other posts, appointments are made on nomination of candidates by the Department of Personnel & Training, Department of Commerce, Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Official Language. The 48 posts which are lying vacant at present are to be filled by nomination of candidates mainly by Department of Personnel & Training. This Ministry has been requesting that Department for nomination of candidates against these posts from time to time."

9. The Committee appreciate to note that out of existing vacancies, 32 posts at the lower levels for which the Ministry themselves make recruitment, have since been filled up pursuant to the recommendation of the Committee. As regards the 48 vacancies which are to be filled up by nomination of candidates mainly by the Department of Personnel & Training and also by the Department of Commerce, Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Official Language, the Ministry have submitted that they have been requesting the DOPT for nomination of candidates against these posts from time to time. The Committee desire that the matter be expedited with the DOPT and also at other appropriate level to speed up the nomination process so that the existing vacant posts are filled up at an early date and funds allocated under non-plan head are not surrendered on this count.

Surrender of Funds**(Recommendation para No. 6)**

10. The Committee in the Second Report had noted that there was surrender of funds under certain schemes but the achievements of physical targets set for those schemes were hundred per cent. It implied that the financial planning for implementing those schemes were irrational and unrealistic. The Committee, therefore, desired the Ministry to owe a cogent explanation in this regard.

11. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles stated as follows:

"Handlooms : As regards meeting the physical target and surrender of funds was attributed to non submission of bills in time by the implementing agency. Since as per the scheme guidelines, the implementing agency is given 30% in advance and balance amount is reimbursed to the implementing agency subsequently after submission of the proper supporting documents in time. The implementing agency had completed the physical targets but could not submit the documents in time which led to surrender of funds.

Handicrafts : Funds under different schemes allocated for current year targets and repaying balance amount of activities sanctioned in previous year. Some-time due to non-receipt of documents from Regional offices, we compel to surrender of funds under certain scheme."

12. The Committee are deeply concerned to note the Ministry's submission that there were surrender of funds in Handloom and Handicrafts due to non-furnishing of documents by the Implementing Agencies and the Regional Offices of the Ministry. Taking serious note of such aberrations, the Committee caution the Ministry and urge them to ensure that the requisite/relevant documents from the Implementing Agencies and the

Regional Offices are timely obtained so that accounts are settled in consonance with the prescribed financial procedure.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

(Recommendation para No. 10)

13. The Committee in their Second Report had noted that all handloom weavers were covered under RSBY irrespective of whether they belong to APL or BPL. However, a sum of Rs.30,000 being provided under the scheme for treatment of cancer and other chronic diseases. Since the extant financial provision for treatment of dreaded diseases like cancer is too less, the Committee urged the Ministry to enhance the financial assistance to the beneficiaries of the Scheme who suffer from such chronic diseases.

14. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles stated as follows:

"A Committee of Secretaries chaired by Principal Secretary to Hon'ble PM held a meeting on 18.11.2014 to transfer Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) Scheme to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW). In its report at para 34, they had brought out that the cap on premia should continue at Rs.750/- per family per annum. Presently, the insurance cover is Rs.30,000 per annum for a family floater of five. In view of removing the family size limitation to prevent exclusion of girl child, dependent parents etc. MoHFW should explore the possibility of enhancing this limit of Rs.30,000 to leverage the efficiency gains of the health assurance agency model. The Committee also noted that Primary, Preventive and Diagnostic healthcare would continue to be provided by the Public Health Infrastructure. A more systematic linkage between these would have to be provided for, so as to reduce the burden on secondary care and ensure more preventive and follow up action at the primary level. The option of providing tertiary healthcare (which takes care of

cancer and other critical diseases) through these Health Assurance Agencies may have to be explored separately. The Committee also noted that the premium being charged by the insurance companies for RSBY has been consistently falling over the years. The Trust / society model is less expensive when compared to the insurance model. It has been seen that in most of the Trust Models (e.g. Vajpayee Arogyashree Scheme, The Rajiv Arogyasree scheme etc.), the administrative cost is less than 10% while merging and administrative costs for insurance companies is much higher. The provisioning of care would be primarily through the public health system and will be completed and supplemented by the not-for-profit and private sectors to close critical gaps in availability of key services in specific areas through well regulated contracts. The cost of care in the public health facilities would be substantially lower (about 1/3rd of existing cost of care) since the costs of infrastructure, HR etc. are to be met through supply side financing. Given these costs savings to the government as elaborated above, it would be possible to provide effective coverage of Rs.50,000/- as per the new scheme design, against the existing coverage amount of Rs.30,000/- and that too, without any limitation on family size, within the existing budget provision. In effect, the coverage to beneficiaries will be above Rs.1 lakh if costing is done as per existing procedure costs under RSBY since it would cost much less in public health facilities."

15. According to the Ministry, it would be possible to provide effective coverage of Rs.50,000/- under RSBY as per the new scheme design, against the existing coverage of Rs.30,000 and that too without any limitation on family size, within the existing budgetary provision. The Ministry have further submitted that in effect, the coverage to the beneficiaries will be above Rs.1 lakh if costing is done as per the existing procedure. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Textiles should take up the matter with the Health

Ministry with a sense of urgency so that the cancer patients and other patients having chronic diseases get proper treatment.

CHAPTER-II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation No.1)

The Committee are concerned to note that the actual expenditure vis-à-vis the BE and RE of the Ministry has been consistently short under both Plan and Non-Plan heads. Receipt of lesser number of proposals and pending Utilization Certificates have been attributed as the reasons for lesser utilization of funds under Plan head. Similarly, for shortfalls in Expenditure under Non-Plan head, the Ministry have submitted that it was due to economic measures, receipt of less demand and no Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation in cotton. In order to ensure receipt of sufficient number of proposals in 2014-15 so as to maximize utilization of the allocated funds, the Ministry are reportedly taking a number of measures which inter-alia include weekly monitoring at the level of Secretary and Joint Secretaries concerned; meeting of the Minister of Textiles with Textile Ministers of all the States for explaining the objectives and funding pattern of the schemes; Secretary, Textile's demi official address to the Chief Secretaries of the States etc. Appreciating the measures initiated which are in right direction, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to further strengthen the monitoring system and intensify interaction with the State Governments so as to ensure receipt of sufficient proposals in the 2014-15 fiscal year which surely would result in optimal utilization of the budgetary provisions.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has taken following initiatives to ensure implementation of projects in time and thereby ensure utilization of funds as follows: -

- (i) Streamlining of procedures for implementation** of schemes such as TUFSS after extensive consultation with different stakeholders
- (ii) Revisions in Scheme guidelines/selection** criteria in order to make the implementation more effective keeping in view the ground realities and strengthening and broad-basing the monitoring system.
- (iii) Initiating process of inviting application** well in advance for timely sanction and release of funds.
- (iv) Stress on identification of suitable implementing agencies** to ensure implementation and offtake of funds

(v) Ensuring submission of inspection reports from field formations on each activity implemented in their respective jurisdiction and basing these for decision to release of further installment/ grants or otherwise.

(vi) Independent evaluation of schemes as well as different components there under is entrusted to professional agencies from time to time in order to generate feedback about impact and steps needed to address identified concerns, if any.

As a result of these steps, the utilization of budgetary provisions during the year 2014-15 has improved. The release position as on 29.1.2015 shows that we have already spent Rs 2767.43 crores which account for 79.07 % of the RE of Rs 3500 crore fixed for the Ministry which is a significant improvement of 60.29% over the corresponding period of 2013-14.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16.04.2015)

(Recommendation No.2)

The Committee find that funds are given to the Implementing Agencies such as Central/State Corporations, NGOs etc. who are responsible for timely utilization of Grants while implementing various projects and regular submission of Utilization Certifications. According to the Ministry, many a time, the Implementing Agencies are not able to get complete information in time from the field formations for which submission of Utilization Certificates get delayed. The Ministry have further apprised that in certain schemes like Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), delays in the implementation of the projects have occurred due to failure of the State Governments in according environmental clearance and providing power and water infrastructure. Hence, submission of Utilization Certificates has been delayed. To obviate such impediments, the Ministry are reportedly requesting the State Governments from time to time to expeditiously release funds to the Implementing Agencies for timely implementation of projects. The Ministry have also submitted that the new Centre-State Coordination Portal of the Cabinet Secretariat i.e. e-Samiksha is being effectively used to follow up with the State Governments on timely implementation of projects ensuring thereby regular submission of Utilization Certificates. Moreover, the Ministry are proposing to stop grants to those Implementing Agencies which fail to submit the Utilization Certificates in time and conversely also consider grant of more projects to the compliant implementing agencies. Taking into consideration the fact that non submission of Utilization Certificates has resulted in consistent shortfalls in the utilization of budgetary provisions, the Committee urge the 51 Ministry to vigorously pursue the measures taken/proposed in unison with the State Governments so as to ensure maximum utilization of the funds allocated under Plan head in future. The Committee would particularly like the Ministry to accord greater import to e-Samiksha for regular monitoring and follow up with the State Governments to ensure timely completion of projects and consequent submission of Utilization Certificates.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry notes the suggestion made by the Standing Committee. It will be the endeavour of the Ministry of Textiles to use the web-based e-Samiksha portal effectively for monitoring pending issues between Centre and State Governments for expeditious resolution and timely completion of projects as well as for identification of fresh issues. With a view to maintaining close liaison with State Governments, each of the Joint Secretary level Officers in the Ministry have also been assigned the responsibility of 5-6 States/Union Territories each in the North, East, West, South and North-Eastern Regions. A State Ministers' Conference was also organized by the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, on 24th September 2014 which was attended by 16 state textile ministers, to deliberate upon the specific needs of each state. Secretary (Textiles) has also undertaken field visits to States and held discussions with Chief Secretaries of West Bengal, Odhisa, Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

(Recommendation No.3)

The Committee are perturbed to note that during 2013-14, there was surrender of funds in as many as 50 schemes. What is more worrying is the fact that out of these 50 Plan schemes, there was hundred per cent surrender of funds in as many as 21 schemes viz. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, NIFT Grants-in-aid; Textiles in NER; Health Insurance Scheme; Promoting Agro Textiles; Partial Modernization of Handloom; Integrated Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme; TUFs subsidies etc. Surprisingly, in each case the reason for surrender of funds has been attributed to non-receipt of viable proposals from the Implementing Agencies. The Committee are constrained to note that when asked to furnish the reasons for non-receipt of viable proposals, the Ministry again furnished the earlier statement, albeit in a different manner. As regards the mechanism put in place/proposed to ensure receipt of viable proposals, the Ministry are reportedly taking a number of measures which inter-alia include regular review meeting by the Textile Secretary to monitor overall progress and expenditure incurred under each scheme; electronic clearance of funds for various schemes etc. However, the Committee feel that the 52 measures initiated appear to be inadequate in view of the magnitude of the surrendered funds during 2013-14, which tantamount to bad budgeting. They, therefore, exhort the Ministry to embark upon new innovative and effective steps besides vigorously intensifying the measures already initiated so as to implement the projects in time and thereby avoid recurrence of the bad phenomenon of surrender of funds.

Reply of the Government

The present Secretary textiles has been taking personal interest in ensuring that schemes are implemented in a timely fashion and funds optimally utilized. He has been exhorting the Ministry to process necessary EFCs/PIB and Cabinet Notes in a timely fashion in Senior officers Meetings every week to obtain clear cut decisions so that the schemes can be implemented smoothly in a timely fashion. Long and serious consultations have been held with the stakeholders to

understand what ails the systems and processes streamlined, and guidelines modified .As a result during the year 2014-15, Ministry has already spent 79% of the RE allocated to it.The observations/recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been also brought to the notice of all the Divisions of the Ministry for strict compliance.

(Ministry of Textiles'O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16 .04.2015)

(Recommendation No.4)

The Committee observe that there was surrender of funds in seven Non-Plan schemes during 2013-14 reportedly due to economic measures and non-filling of vacant posts. The Committee find that a meager amount of Rs.67.94 lakh was surrendered due to economic measures whereas a substantial amount of Rs.508.00 lakh was surrendered due to non-filling of vacant posts. In this context, the Committee were informed that 32 posts have been filled during 2014-15; 05 and 27 posts have been referred to the UPSC and the SSC respectively and 19 posts are under process of being referred to the SSC. In view of the quantum of funds surrendered during 2013-14 due to non-filling of vacant posts, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to expedite the process of filling up of the vacant posts to the maximum extent possible so that funds allocated under the non-plan head are gainfully utilized during the current fiscal and in future also.

Reply of the Government

In view of the quantum of funds surrendered during 2013-14 due to non-filling of vacant posts, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to expedite the process of filling up of the vacant posts to the maximum extent possible so that funds allocated under the non-plan head are gainfully utilized during the current fiscal and in future also. The Ministry of Textiles has a sanctioned strength of 179 posts i.e. Group A-35 posts, Group-B(Gazetted)-25 posts, Group-B (Non-Gazetted)-57 and Group-C-62 posts. At present 131 posts are filled up and 48 posts are lying vacant. The Ministry makes recruitment itself to the posts of Library & Information Assistant(1 post), Investigator(2 posts),Staff Car Drivers (4 posts), Junior Gestetner Operator(1 post) and MTS(22 posts), All these posts are filled up as on date. As regards other posts, appointments are made on nomination of candidates by the Department of Personnel & Training, Department of Commerce, Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Official Language. The 48 posts which are lying vacant at present are to be filled by nomination of candidates mainly by Department of Personnel & Training. This Ministry has been requesting that Department for nomination of candidates against these posts from time to time.

(Ministry of Textiles'O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16.04.2015)

(Recommendation No.5)

The Committee are pleased to note that in many schemes, the Ministry have exceeded the physical targets fixed during the year 2013-14. However, notably in six schemes viz, Integrated Handloom Scheme; Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme; Group Workshed (Powerloom) Scheme; Technology

Upgradation Fund Scheme; Scheme for Integrated Textile Park; and Technical Textiles Scheme, the Ministry's performance has been poor. According to the Ministry such shortfalls occurred in the said Schemes due to varied reasons such as delay in verifications of the Weavers by the State Government; change in the mode of implementation and delay in finalization of the RGSSBY for the 12th Plans etc. The Committee are not convinced with the reasons adduced by the Ministry for shortfalls in the achievements of targets in some of the most important Schemes. The Committee are of the firm opinion that when the Textile Industry accounts for 14 percent of the Country's industrial production which is 4 percent of the GDP, it is imperative and incumbent upon the Ministry to achieve the physical targets set annually as well as during the Five Year Plan period. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should resort to effective measures and ensure that procedural delays do not impede optimal achievement of physical targets in the current year as well as in future.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committees have been noted for compliance. The Textile Ministry would however like to reiterate that reasons like delay in the decision regarding the implementing Ministry for RGSSBY was the reason for funds not getting utilized under the scheme. The Scheme wise details are as under :-

Powerloom Sector Scheme : There was poor performance of the Group Workshed Scheme during the year 2013-14. The reason for poor performance of the scheme was that the Group Workshed Powerloom Scheme (GWS) was launched in the year 2003 and was extended with modification from time to time up to 31.03.2012. The scheme was further extended by the Ministry upto 31/03.2013. There was a proposal to discontinue the scheme from the year 2013-14. However, the sub-group of working group on Textile and Jute Industry setup by the Planning Commission for Powerloom sector for 12th Plan period recommended continuing the existing scheme which include GWS along with new schemes/ innervations for development of Powerloom sector. Accordingly, continuation of GWS beyond 31.3.2013 was approved in January, 2014 with modification in technical and financial parameters of scheme. In year 2014-15, as against the target of 20 project, 42 projects have been approved by the Project Approval Committee (PPAC) for construction of GWS under the scheme and an amount of Rs.11.52 crore has already been released to the Executive Agencies. It is expected to utilize the amount allocated under the BE 2014-15 fully.

Technical Textiles: Under the Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (TMTT), 8 Centre of Excellence (CoEs) have been upgraded/established. There was some shortfall in the expenditure under the scheme because of delay on the part of the CoEs to submit proposals for the procurement of propriety items. Moreover, there was ban on release grants to Bombay Textiles Research Association (BTRA), one of the CoE, due to some legal issue. The TMTT scheme has been extended for another 2 years. The CoEs have been asked to expedite the proposals for the procurement of propriety items. The ban on BTRA has also been lifted. Ministry is also processing the matter to promote the bulk use of technical textiles and a Note of Committee of Secretaries in this regard is under process.

Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS): Since the Scheme in its earlier form i.e. Restructured TUFS ended in March 2012, the earmarked subsidy cap of Rs.1972 crores was not fully utilized and to avoid any hiatus as the 12th Plan TUFS proposals were not finalized, the Ministry of Textiles in accordance with Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Plan Finance – II Division clarificatory O.M. NO.1(3)/P.F.II/2011 dated 23.4.2012 allowed extension of R-TUFS into the first year of 12th Plan to the extent of availability of unutilized subsidy cap. The new GR for continuation of the Scheme was issued on 04-10-2013, the preauthorisation of the application i.e. issue of UIDs, started after Nov 2013. However, UIDs for 585 cases having investment in project cost of Rs. 6387.10 crore was issued under RRTUFS during the year 2013-14.

Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) : In addition, the Ministry has directed Textile Commissioner to assist the textile parks in obtaining necessary clearances and actively monitor the physical and financial progress of the textile parks and submit a report to the ministry at regular intervals. This will facilitate reducing the time to be taken by a park towards its completion.

Handloom :The recommendation of the Committee to resort effective measures of ensuring fully achievement of physical targets & to avoid procedural delay for not impeding optimal achievement in current year and in future has been noted for compliance.

Handicrafts :The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. For full utilization of the allocated outlays and achievement of physical targets, it is submitted that as a result of measures taken concerning monitoring and publicity of the schemes, it is hoped that outlays in the handicraft sector will be fully utilized under each of the schemes and targets will be achieved.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16 .04.2015)

(Recommendation No.7)

The Committee are concerned to note that during 2012-13 there were shortfalls in the export of RMG, cotton textiles, manmade textiles, woolen textiles, silk textiles, jute and carpet. However, due to the focused efforts made by the Ministry, the declining trend of textile exports in the earlier year was arrested and a significant growth in export was witnessed during 2013- 14. For example, against the export target of US \$34 billion during 2013-14, the achievement was US \$39.31 billion. Textiles (including handicrafts) exports during 2013-14 registered a growth of 13% in US\$ terms and 26% in Rupee terms. Readymade garments registered a growth of 16%, man-made textiles 13% and cotton textiles 11% in US\$ terms. In view of the fact that the textiles industry accounts for nearly 11% share of the Country's total exports basket, the Committee exhort the Ministry to maintain the momentum gathered in 2013-14 and continue to significantly step up external economic engagement with other countries and negotiate a number of bilateral agreements so that significant gains in the access/share in the global textile market are achieved in future also.

Reply of the Government

A statement showing principle commodity-wise exports data (Provisional) during 2014-15 is at Annexure-I.

The Ministry of Textiles is making all efforts for conducting external economic engagement with the other countries to negotiate a number of bilateral agreements in order to tap new non-traditional foreign markets other than EU and USA. A Statement indicating current status of the MoUs is at Annexure-II.

Apart from various proposals for the ensuing Foreign Trade Policy and the other policy initiatives, Ministry has recommended the following proposals for inclusion in forthcoming Union Budget 2015-16 in order to enable the sector to increase market share in the global textiles markets for significant growth in export during 2015-16.

- (A) Reduction of Excise duty from 12% to 4% on MMF textiles
- (B) Interest Rate Subvention Scheme should be made available to Textiles Export till 2016-2017
- (C) Removal of Special Additional Duty (SAD)
- (D) To provide working capital @ 7% to exporters under priority sector lending
- (E) Margin Money for Working Capital for Cotton

(Ministry of Textiles'O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16.04.2015)

(Recommendation No.8)

The Committee are happy to note that recently a mega expo on handicrafts was held in Greater Noida which got encouraging response from the exporters. The Committee would like the Ministry to organize more such mega expos in handicrafts, embroidery, metal wear and hand-woven carpets in future and conduct large scale training programmes to boost export of such items.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for future compliance. However, the crafts mentioned above are included in all our Marketing Programme including Mega Expos .

(Ministry of Textiles'O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16.04.2015)

(Recommendation No.9)

The Committee find that by amalgamating handicrafts and handlooms with fashion, new products are being developed which are getting encouraging response both within and outside the Country. Notably reputed designers are also being roped in to develop products according to the need of the Industry. As assured

by the Secretary, Ministry of Textiles in evidence, the Committee recommend that the students of NIFT and the rural women engaged in handicrafts and handlooms products be involved in the development of new products so that they get benefited both professionally and financially.

Reply of the Government

NIFT: Designers are an interface, between the traditional and the modern, trying to match craft production to the needs of modern times and demands. Designers are facilitators who weave the modern technology and traditional crafts to create unique fashion products. In India, craft and design sector share a symbiotic relationship where traditional craft skills are adapted to contemporary design. Designers play an integral role to understand the aesthetics and socio- cultural needs of the craftsmen and bridge the gap between market and artisans. NIFT plays an important role to train human resource for providing fashion perspective to the crafts and hand holding/ retraining the craftsmen for better livelihood.

“Design Sutra”, was organized to bring the young talented students pursuing fashion design and the handloom weavers together for reinventing handloom with fashion, infusing new ideas for producing a wide range of products as per the liking of the customers. The “NIFT Design Sutra” had the following events:-

1. Exhibition/ Display of entries.
2. Unveiling of the souvenir on Handlooms
3. Brain storming session involving the major stake holders such as representatives from the Industry, Weavers and Artisans community, Designers and Academia.
4. Fashion Show to showcase the garments made out of Handloom fabrics.

The event was attended by delegates from the fashion fraternity, academicians, industry representatives, designers, senior govt. officials, policy makers, handloom weavers and Handicraft artisans- the major stakeholders from handloom as well as handicraft sector. The event unleashed the potential and provided a new direction to the promotion of handloom and attracted the younger generation to this prestigious creative activity while meeting the requirement of fashion conscious consumers within the country and abroad and providing a solution to the complex issue of sustainable development.

NIFT has emerged as a Centre of excellence & innovation with a distinctly conscious concern for social responsibility. I have known this aggressive initiative by NIFT of integrating the ‘Craft Cluster Initiative’ into its curricula that allows the students to work in collaboration with the artisans and weavers from different geographical areas of India. thereby connecting with the grassroots, NIFT Students are trained not only to solve the problems but to help the artisans and craftsmen become self sustainable. Collaborative innovation between students and craftsperson through graduation projects has expanded the crafts vocabulary and tapped the contemporary market. Design intervention has helped to bring in much needed

empathetic and holistic understanding towards a positive outcome. Students are able to contribute responsible and strategic design innovation by integrating the social, economical, ecological and cultural aspects.

In an endeavor to bridge the gap between the market and the craftsman, the faculty and students at NIFT undertake various craft projects through which they are able to add aesthetics of fashion in the regional sensibilities and diversities, with innovative design, technology and capabilities for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Handloom

Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has already kept provision for engaging students/designers passed out from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in the handloom clusters under Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS) and Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS). Recently, tender notice has been published for hiring designers passed from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), in Varanasi Mega Handloom Cluster.

Handicrafts

The recommendations of the committee have been noted for future compliance.

(Ministry of Textiles'O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16 .04.2015)

(Recommendation No.10)

The Committee note that all handloom weavers are covered under RSBY scheme irrespective of whether they belong to APL or BPL. However, the Committee are concerned to find that for treatment of cancer and other chronic diseases, a sum of Rs.30,000 only is being provided under the scheme. The Committee feel that the extant financial provision for treatment of dreaded diseases like cancer is too less. They, therefore, urge the Ministry to urgently look into the matter and take requisite measures to enhance the financial assistance to the handloom 56 weavers who suffer from such chronic diseases as within the financial limit of the RSBY, these diseases cannot be treated.

Reply of the Government

A committee of Secretaries chaired by Principal Secretary to Hon'ble PM held a meeting on 18.11.2014 to transfer RashtriyaSwasthyaBimaYojana (RSBY) scheme to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW). In its report at para 34, they had brought out that the cap on premia should continue at Rs.750/- per family per annum. Presently, the insurance cover is Rs.30,000 per annum for a family floater of five. In view of removing the family size limitation to prevent exclusion of girl child, dependent parents etc. MoHFW should explore the possibility of

enhancing this limit of Rs.30,000 to leverage the efficiency gains of the health assurance agency model. The committee also noted that Primary, Preventive and Diagnostic health care would continue to be provided by the Public Health Infrastructure. A more systematic linkage between these would have to be provided for, so as to reduce the burden on secondary care and ensure more preventive and follow up action at the primary level. The option of providing tertiary health care (which taken care of cancer and other critical diseases) through these Health Assurance Agencies may have to be explored separately. The committee also noted that the premium being charged by the insurance companies for RSBY has been consistently falling over the years. The Trust / society model is less expensive when compared to the insurance model. It has been seen that in most of the Trust Models (e.g. Vajpayee Arogyashree Scheme, The Rajiv Arogyasree scheme etc.), the administrative cost is less than 10% while merging and administrative costs for insurance companies is much higher. The provisioning of care would be primarily through the public health system and will be completed and supplemented by the not-for-profit and private sectors to close critical gaps in availability of key services in specific areas through well regulated contracts. The costs of care in the public health facilities would be substantially lower (about 1/3rd of existing cost of care) since the costs of infrastructure, HR etc. are to be met through supply side financing. Given these costs savings to the government as elaborated above, it would be possible to provide effective coverage of Rs.50,000/- as per the new scheme design, against the existing coverage amount of Rs.30,000/- and that too, without any limitation on family size, within the existing budget provision. In effect, the coverage to beneficiaries will be above Rs.1 lakh if costing is done as per existing procedure costs under RSBY since it would cost much less in public health facilities.

(Ministry of Textiles'O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16.04.2015)

CHAPTER-III

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY**

NIL

CHAPTER-IV**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION****(Recommendation No.6)**

The Committee are surprised to note that there was surrender of funds under certain schemes but the achievements of physical targets set for those schemes has been hundred per cent. It implies that the financial planning for implementing those schemes has been irrational and unrealistic. The Ministry owe a cogent explanation in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Handlooms :As regards meeting the physical target and surrender of funds was attributed to non submission of bills in time by the implementing agency. Since as per the scheme guidelines, the implementing agency is given 30% in advance and balance amount is reimbursed to the implementing agency subsequently after submission of the proper supporting documents in time. The implementing agency had completed the physical targets but could not submit the documents in time which led to surrender of funds.

Handicrafts : Funds under different schemes allocated for current year targets and repaying balance amount of activities sanctioned in previous year. Some-time due to non-receipt of documents from Regional offices, we compel to surrender of funds under certain scheme.

(Ministry of Textiles'O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16.04.2015)

CHAPTER-V

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE

(Recommendation No.11)

The Committee appreciate that a number of measures are being taken to address the problems of the jute industry workers and jute growers. In view of the fact that jute is one of the important foreign exchange earners and all over the world only India and Bangladesh are producing jute, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to continue according greater attention to this sector so as to effectively safeguard the interest of the jute workers and growers and promote the jute Industry in a big way and not to dilute the provisions of reservation as contained in 'The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act 1987'.

Reply of the Government

In order to address the issues relating Jute Sector, the government has been taking consistent efforts for protect the interests of jute workers and jute growers. In this context, the Government always tried to utilize the entire sacking capacity of the jute mills through the mandatory packaging order. If for some reasons, the jute mills have not been able to supply the indented quantities of B-Twill bags for packing foodgrains, only on such occasions, the Government has been compelled to allow dilution to the limited extent of the shortfall or the estimated shortfall in order that the procurement of foodgrains is not adversely affected and to avoid the hardships for the State foodgrains procurement agencies as well as those very large number of foodgrain farmers.

Some of important measures which are being taken by the Government to improve the performance of the jute sector are :-

(i) Promotion of Jute Industry – Issues taken up with Government of West Bengal by Ministry of Textiles

The issues relating to promotion of jute industry, welfare of the farmers and workers of the industry were discussed in a meeting held by Secretary (Textiles) with Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal in Kolkata on 19.9.2014. It was thereby conveyed that Govt. of West Bengal may:

- (a) Take steps for implementation of JPM Act for the packaging of rice and paddy in Bengal.
- (b) Introduce mandatory packing of potatoes and other vegetables in the state in jute hessian bags.
- (c) Promote use of jute as geo-textiles in PMGSY roads, district roads and State Highways, in river embankments and in slop stabilization.
- (d) Evolve better agronomic practices in cultivation of jute.
- (e) Extend relief under the Revival Scheme of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC) Limited.

- (f) Remove the encroachments from the land of Birds Jute & Export Limited (BJEL) at South Dumdum municipality and give necessary permission for alternate use/disposal of the land.

In this connection, the issues were also taken up with Dr. AmitMitra, Minister (Finance, Excise, Commerce & Industries, Public Enterprises, IR and IT&C), Government of West Bengal. In addition, Chief Secretaries of all States have also been requested to promote the usage of jute goods.

(ii) Meeting of Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles (I/C) and Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry (I/C) with the stakeholders of jute sector in Kolkata on 11.10.2014

A meeting was held in Kolkata on 11.10.2014, where all the stakeholders of jute sector viz., jute farmers, jute mill workers, Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA), Jute Products Development & Export Promotion Council (JPDEPC) and Jute Diversified Products entrepreneurs put up their views for the promotion and development of jute sector before both the Ministers. The follow up action on the views expressed by different stakeholders would be taken up in due course of time.

(iii) Linkage with National Institute of Design (NID) particularly for Jute

Linkage is also being established with National Institute of Design (NID) for Setting of Jute Design Cell and Non-woven product design linkage to be pursued with NID. NID has conducted a study and submitted their report on Pre-Proposal Feasibility Study for Design-Technology Intervention in Jute based Textiles, Apparel, Lifestyle, Craft and Composite Products. The Report was discussed by NID Officials separately with Jute Commissioner and Members of Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA). Subsequently, two proposals namely

(i) Setting up of Jute Design Cell for Shopping Bags and Lifestyle Accessories at NID PG Campus, Gandhinagar and

(ii) Setting up of Jute Non-Woven Line for Product Engineering and Design at IJIRA, Kolkata in collaboration with NID, identified in consultation with IJMA are under preparation by NID and will be submitted to National Jute Board for their consideration.

(Ministry of Textiles'O.M. No. 2/21/2014-Parl. dated 16.04.2015)

New Delhi;
22nd April April, 2015
2 Vaisakha,1937 (Saka)

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR
CHAIRPERSON
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Minutes of the Twentieth Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on 22nd April, 2015 from 1400 hrs. to 1430 hrs. in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Virendra Kumar - Chairperson

MEMBERS**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Rajesh Kumar Diwakar
3. Shri Satish Chandra Dubey
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri R. Parthipan
6. Shri Naba Kumar Sarania

RAJYA SABHA

7. Haji Abdul Salam
8. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma
9. Shri P.L. Punia

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Shri D.R. Mohanty - Deputy Secretary
4. Smt. Archana Srivastva - Under Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and apprised them that he convened the meeting at 1400 hrs. to facilitate the Members' timely presence in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha. The Chairperson then informed the Members that, subject to adoption of the Draft Reports slated for consideration by the Committee, he would like to get the Reports presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 23rd April, 2015. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions on the Draft Reports.

2. The Committee then took up for consideration the following Draft Reports and adopted them after some discussions:

- (i) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their First Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment;
- (ii) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Second Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Textiles;
- (iii) Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment; and
- (iv) Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Textiles.

3. The Draft Reports were adopted by the Committee without any change.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the Draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

5. XX XX XX

The Committee then adjourned.

XX Do not pertain to this report

APPENDIX-II**(Vide Para No. 3 of the Introduction)****ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SECOND REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	11	
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government (Rec. Sl. Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 & 10)	09	81.8%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies- (Nil)	NIL	NIL
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee and which requires reiteration – (Rec. Sl. No. 6)	01	9.1%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are of interim in nature (Rec. Sl.No.11)	01	9.1%
		----- 100% -----

India's Textiles exports at a glance (Principal Commodities)

Prepared on 07/01/2015

Sl.No.	Item	2013-14(Apr-Nov.)		2014-15(Apr-Nov.) (P)		Variation		%share in Textiles Exports	
		Crore	US\$ Mn	Crore	US\$ Mn	Crore	US\$	Crore	US\$
A	Readymade Garment	53652.50	8982.88	62445.15	10325.80	16%	15%	41%	41%
	RMG of cotton incl. accessories	33492.11	5611.24	35835.92	5926.97	7%	6%	24%	24%
	RMG of Man-made fibre	11871.76	1987.70	15334.67	2535.07	29%	28%	10%	10%
	RMG of other textile material	8288.63	1383.94	11274.56	1863.76	36%	35%	7%	7%
B	Cotton Textiles	47314.90	7865.00	46053.10	7607.78	-3%	-3%	30%	30%
	Cotton Yarn	17709.96	2947.19	15382.60	2539.32	-13%	-14%	10%	10%
	Other Textile Yarn, Fabric, Madeup Article	1626.62	270.62	1785.79	294.94	10%	9%	1%	1%
	Cotton raw including waste	7963.29	1313.59	6506.88	1077.32	-18%	-18%	4%	4%
	Cotton fabrics & madeups	20015.03	3333.60	22377.83	3696.20	12%	11%	15%	15%
C	Man-made textiles	22373.43	3735.05	23635.04	3903.51	6%	5%	16%	16%
	Manmade staple fibres	2330.72	388.73	2217.22	366.02	-5%	-6%	1%	1%
	Manmade yarn, fab. & madeups	20042.71	3346.32	21417.82	3537.49	7%	6%	14%	14%
D	Wool & Woollen textiles	1790.87	297.12	2003.29	330.78	12%	11%	1%	1%
	RMG of Wool	1334.38	220.61	1423.09	234.83	7%	6%	1%	1%
	Wool raw	0.98	0.17	0.10	0.02	-90%	-88%	0%	0%
	Woollen yarn, fabrics & madeups	455.51	76.34	580.10	95.93	27%	26%	0%	0%
E	Silk	1496.14	249.61	1821.39	301.12	22%	21%	1%	1%
	RMG of Silk	851.63	142.27	1214.81	200.87	43%	41%	1%	1%
	Natural silk yarn, fab. & madeups	578.06	96.39	530.69	87.72	-8%	-9%	0%	0%
	Silk Raw	0.05	0.01	0.11	0.02	120%	100%	0%	0%
	Silk waste	66.40	10.94	75.78	12.51	14%	14%	0%	0%
F	Handloom Product	1571.09	263.15	1432.05	236.52	-9%	-10%	1%	1%
G	Carpets	4,708.45	786.87	5,938.13	980.67	26%	25%	4%	4%

	Carpets (excluding silk) handmade	4698.68	785.26	5927.45	978.91	26%	25%	4%	4%
	Silk carpets	9.77	1.61	10.68	1.76	9%	9%	0%	0%
H	Jute	1611.06	268.11	1455.57	240.58	-10%	-10%	1%	1%
	Floor covering of jute	218.78	36.75	356.09	58.88	63%	60%	0%	0%
	Other jute manufactures	654.74	108.74	481.11	79.55	-27%	-27%	0%	0%
	Jute Raw	80.90	13.56	70.76	11.65	-13%	-14%	0%	0%
	Jute yarn	75.17	12.37	82.17	13.57	9%	10%	0%	0%
	Jute hessian	581.47	96.69	465.44	76.93	-20%	-20%	0%	0%
I	Coir and Coir Manufacturers	869.00	144.46	946.26	156.39	9%	8%	1%	1%
Sum of A to I	Total Textile & Clothing	135387.44	22592.25	145729.98	24083.15	8%	7%	96%	96%
J	Handicrafts (Excl. Handmade Crpts)	5830.07	964.80	5694.48	939.88	-2%	-3%	4%	4%
Sum of A to J	Total T&C including Handicrafts	141217.51	23557.05	151424.46	25023.03	7%	6%	100%	100%
L	% Textile Exports	13.07%	13.00%	13.49%	13.46%				
M	India's overall exports	1080203.41	181234.98	1122499.75	185970.07				

Source : Foreign Trade Statistics of India(Principal Commodities & Countries), DGCI&S

**Government of India
Ministry of Textiles**

Status of Memorandum of Understandings signed by Government of India with foreign Governments.

Country	Brief objectives of MoUs	Year of initial signing	Validity period/ tenure	Benefit Accrued
Uzbekistan	Cooperation in the field of Textiles, Clothing and Fashion industries	18 th May, 2011	Initially for a period of 5 years, thereafter automatically extended for a period of 5 years at a time, unless terminated by either party by giving a written notice of its intention.	<p>As per article 7 of the MoU, an Indian delegation visited Tashkent from May 23-25, 2012 for the 1st meeting of the JWG wherein consensus were reached on:</p> <p>(a) 3 collaborative to be developed in silk sector (b) in Cotton sector, sharing of information and to develop contract enforcement mechanisms;</p> <p>(c) collaboration between Research institutions SITRA and Uzbekistan Research Institute of Natural Fibres.</p> <p>Subsequently, a textiles team from Uzbekistan visited India during Tex-Trends - July, 2012 where they exhibited their organisations' products in a stall in the main exhibition area. A follow up visit was undertaken by Director (Cotton), Ministry of Textiles to participate in 8th International Uzbek Cotton and Textile Fair (17-18th October, 2012) and to discuss Cotton / Silk related issues.</p> <p>The 2nd Meeting of the JWG was held in New Delhi on 21st February, 2013. It was decided that Central Silk Board (CSB) and the Uzbek Research Institute would jointly formulate research projects in the areas of silkworm & mulberry breeding, pest and nutrient management, silkworm seed technology, and cocoon & yarn processing technology.</p> <p>The 10th Session of India-Uzbekistan Inter Governmental Commission (IUIGC) on Trade</p>

				<p>Economic Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held on 4.3.2014 in New Delhi in which MoU between the Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute (CSRTI) and Uzbek Research Institute of Sericulture (URIS) was discussed. Uzbek side has come with an MoU between CSRTI and URIS. The MoU is being examined by Central Silk Board (CSB) for their comments / views particularly financial implications and liability on the Government arising out of the MoU. MoT has approved the MoU to be signed between CSB and its Uzbek counterpart.</p>
Mauritius	Enhance trade & economic relations by expanding business and cooperation in the sphere of their Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Industries	7th February, 2012	No validity period is fixed.	<p>The 3rd meeting of the Joint Committee on cooperation about the textile and clothing industry constituted under the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection of the Republic of Mauritius was held on January 31, 2014 at New Delhi, India. In the Joint Committee meeting various bilateral issues on cooperation in textile sector were discussed.</p> <p>There is an ambiguity on signing the MoU between the stake holders of both the sides.</p>
Tajikistan	Enhance trade & economic relations by expanding business and cooperation in the sphere of their Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Industries	3rd September, 2012	Initially for a period of 5 years and may be extended or amended as per terms and conditions mutually agreed upon.	<p>The MoU seeks to enhance the trade & economic relations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) expanding business and cooperation in the sphere of Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Industries. (ii) Assisting each other in carrying out all necessary techno-commercial collaboration in development of textiles and clothing, silk and sericulture and fashion industry. (iii) Assisting each other in the areas of research and development, technical collaboration in product development and manufacturing, testing and certification in accordance with the established international requirements. (iv) Collaboration in the areas of skill development, training, training and retraining of

				<p>personnel.</p> <p>(v) carrying out of joint scientific, industrial and other meetings and exchanges in these areas.</p> <p>(vi) organize visit of technical experts, specialists and scientists in the areas of textiles and clothing; silk and sericulture, and fashion technology for discussion for details of cooperation.</p> <p>(vii) promoting export of textiles and clothing products in the markets of each other.</p> <p>(viii) facilitate participation of business delegations, exhibitors and buyers of each other in the trade exhibitions, buyers sellers meets, business forums organized.</p> <p>(ix) to constitute a Joint Working Group (JWG) to explore the areas of cooperation worked out in the MOU.</p>
Israel	<p>Textiles sector collaboration in:</p> <p>(a) water technology solutions for the textiles industry;</p> <p>(b) energy efficiency solutions for the textile industry;</p> <p>(c) technical collaboration in textile;</p> <p>(d) collaboration in design and marketing; and</p> <p>(e) collaboration in textiles machinery</p>	5th September, 2012	Letter of Intent was signed with no validity period	<p>A Letter of Intent was signed by Secretary (Textiles) and DG of the Israeli Ministry of Trade, Industry and Labor (MOITAL) on 5th September, 2012 in Tel Aviv to collaborate in India's manufacturing sector industry to address the challenging situation of pollution in the textiles sector.</p> <p>In pursuance to boost apparel exports, Ministry of Textiles had organised an Apparel show in Tel Aviv last year and Apparel exports to Israel have witnessed 25% growth.</p> <p>As per Article 4 of the Letter of Intent, Israel intend to cooperate and share knowledge and expertise in water technology solutions for the textile industry, including treatment of waste water, reclaiming water in industrial production facilities, recycling water and purification of water. This issue was discussed during the visit of Indian delegation to Israel in September, 2012. The Indian side sought collaboration of the Israeli industry in setting up Textiles Processing Parks under the Integrated Processing Sector Development Scheme proposed for 12th Plan.</p>
Australia	Cooperation in the field of	17 th October,	1 st meeting of Australia-India	The 1 st meeting of the Australia–India Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cooperation in the Field of Wool and Woollen Products was held on 22 February 2013 in Melbourne,

	Wool and Woollen Products	2012	JWG was held on 22 nd February, 2013	<p>Australia.</p> <p>The meeting dialogue focused on identifying areas of mutual benefit and cooperation in wool trade and production. The Indian delegation stated that they were looking for collaboration and knowledge sharing in sheep development and genetics as a means to improve their livestock health and wool production.</p>
Romania	To enhance the trade & economic relations by expanding business and cooperation in the sphere of their Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Industries between India and Romania	23 rd April, 2013	Initially for a period of 5 years and may be extended or amended as per terms and conditions mutually agreed upon.	<p>A high level delegation of Ministry of Textiles headed by Joint Secretary (Exports) visited Romania from 20-22nd June, 2013 for substantive bilateral discussions on textiles trade related issues and holding of the Joint Working Group meeting.</p> <p>The significant agreements reached in the first meeting of the India-Romania Joint Working Group are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. With the objective of restoring the primary sector of textiles industry of Romania, in silk sector, a framework of collaboration between the Central Silk Board of India and the collaborating Institutes of Romania would be developed. ii. Romania and India would explore the feasibility of further collaboration in the flax and hemp; iii. With the objective of enhancing textiles trade between the two countries, the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) and Synthetic Rayon and Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) would explore the possibility of entering into cooperation with the Federation of Textiles, Garments and Leather Industry of Romania (FEPAIUS); iv. To address the skill demands of the Apparel Sector, the Apparel Training and Design Center would explore the possibility of entering into a collaboration with the professional associations in the field and the Management organizations of Romanian Textiles Clusters; v. To address the compliance standards and productivity enhancement requirements of the Apparel Industry in order to meet the demands of the niche market for exports, the Apparel Export Promotion Council of India and appropriate institutions in Romania would explore the possibility of collaboration; vi. Romanian exporters would be invited to major textiles trade shows in New Delhi

				<p>including Tex Trends India. Indian exporters would be invited to major Romanian Textiles and Handicraft shows in Romania;</p> <p>vii. Romania and India would collaborate for creation of innovative technical products both for the single European market and the South East Asian market. Romania and India would seek to enhance cooperation in selling the Indian products in the EU countries;</p> <p>viii. Romania and India would explore the possibility of foreign direct investments in the textiles.</p>
Bangladesh	To enhance trade & economic relations by expanding business cooperation between India and Bangladesh in the sphere of Textiles including Cotton, Jute, Silk, Handlooms, Clothing and Fashion Industries and skill training.	19 th August, 2013	Initially for a period of 5 years and may be extended or amended as per terms and conditions mutually agreed upon.	A JWG has been constituted for enhancing the trade & economic relations by expanding business and cooperation in the sphere of their textiles including Cotton, Jute, Silk, Handlooms, Clothing and Fashion Industries and skill training institutions. The first JWG meeting was held in Dhaka on 27.02.2014 in Dhaka (BD). Both sides discussed the various provisions of the MoU and also possible action / measures that could be considered in realizing the full potential of the MoU.
Sri Lanka	The MoU seeks to enhance the economic relations by expanding business and cooperation in the development of SMEs in Handloom, Powerloom and Textiles including Trade Relations, Skill Development, Fashion Technology, and development of compliance standards.	9 th September, 2013	Initially for a period of 5 years, thereafter automatically extended for a period of 5 years at a time, unless terminated by either party by giving a written notice of its intention.	To take forward the initiative, a JWG has been proposed to explore the details of cooperation including steps required to facilitate the economic, technical and scientific cooperation within the scope of the MoU. Approval has been obtained from MoT for constitution of JWG along with Terms of Reference (ToR) and the composition of JWG along with ToR has been sent to MEA for sharing with Sri Lankan side.
India-EU Joint Working	The working group provides a sub-forum for examining question concerning Trade in	7 JWG meetings have been held so	1st India-EU JWG was held	Joint Working Group (JWG) on Textiles and Clothing was set up by the Joint Commission pursuant to the Co-operation Agreement between the European Community and India on Partnership and Development of 1994, in particular Article 22 “Joint Commission”, which

Group on Textiles	Textiles between the EU and India to explore the possibilities of facilitating and promoting textiles and clothing trade to the mutual benefits of both sides.	far.	on 23.10.2000	states that the “Joint Commission may set up specialized sub-groups to assist in the performance of its tasks”. 8 th round of India-EU JWG meeting will be held shortly in New Delhi.
Belarus	To enhance the trade & economic relations by expanding business and cooperation in the sphere of their Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Industries between India and Belarus	The MoU is proposed to be signed in 2014.	-	Vide Fax/E-mail message dt. 7 th March, 2014 EoI, Minsk has been requested to seek mutually convenient dates for signing of the MoU.
Kyrgyz Republic	The MoU seeks to enhance the trade & economic relations by expanding business and cooperation in the sphere of their Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Industries between India and Kyrgyz Republic.	The MoU is proposed to be signed in 2014.	-	Vide O.M. dt. 24 th June, 2014, MEA has been requested to expedite in taking concurrence of the Kyrgyz Republic for early finalization of the MoU as approved by Cabinet. Signing of MoU is going to be signed shortly.
Afghanistan	The MoU seeks to enhance the economic relations between India and Afghanistan by expanding business and cooperation in the field of Textiles, Clothing, Investment, Compliance and Skill Development.	The MoU is proposed to be signed in 2014.	-	Vide O.M. dt. 23 rd July, 2014, MEA has been requested to seek convenient date and time for signing of the MoU.
JWG in textiles sector cooperation with Kazakhstan	Cooperation in the field of textiles and clothing and particularly in Wool, Cotton and MMF sectors	3 IK-JWG were held so far.	1 st JWG meeting was held on 11-12 January, 2011	A JWG in textiles sector cooperation was formed between both the countries in 2008. The 3 rd meeting of the JWG was held in India on 7 th June, 2012. The two sides agreed to press forward on areas of mutual interest and concern as well as mutual assistance and cooperation in the field of textiles and clothing and particularly in Wool, Cotton and MMF sectors. The third India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group (IK-JWG) was held in New Delhi during 20-21

				<p>February, 2014. Various issues relating to apparel import of Kazakhstan were discussed.</p> <p>Further, 11th meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Inter Government Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation held in Astana on 24th-25th April, 2014. During the meeting the two sides have agreed for participation of buyers and major apparel brands of Kazakhstan in IIGF to be held in New Delhi in July, 2014.</p>
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