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Title: Need for reforms in textile sector.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR): The Central Government recently introduced a comprehensive package of reforms in the textiles sector aimed at generating 1 crore jobs in 3 years. It envisages a variety of measures aimed at boosting production, exports and employment by relaxing labour norms and introducing specialized schemes.

As a part of these reforms, the Government has introduced an Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme to promote technological upgradation in the sector. Technical upgradation lowers the costs, boosts output and in turn competitiveness, however at the same time increased automation of industries poses a threat to jobs. It is pertinent to note that, a recent report on technological transformation in the ASEAN region, released by the International Labour Organization has observed that workers in the textiles, clothing, and footwear (TCF) sectors are the most vulnerable to this technological displacement. The report found that about 137 million workers in the textile industry in the ASEAN region could lose their jobs due to this.