

	April-November 1989 (Rs. Millions)	April-November 1988 (Rs. Millions)
Cotton piecegoods		3996.63
	5193.80	
Yarn & sewing thread	2214.67	1461.61
Madeups	1660.48	1132.98
Total	9068.95	6591.22

(d) Government has taken several steps for increasing the exports of textiles items including cotton textiles such as permission to import sophisticated machineries under OGL with concessional duty, creation of Rs. 750 crores modernisation fund, 5% additional SCS for export of textiles to non-shipment credit, reduction in the rate of interest for packing credit, income tax exemption etc. Besides, the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council undertakes regular export promotion measures such as sponsoring Buyer-Seller-Meets, participation in fairs and exhibitions, overseas publicity etc.

Price of Cotton

1479. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of cotton has shown signs of decline and the growers are not getting remunerative prices for the year 1989-90 due to plenty of production; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the interests of growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):(a) Prices of cotton have generally declined from the level prevailing at the beginning of

the current cotton season due to an all time record production. However, kapas prices are still ruling fairly above the minimum support level, which itself is considered to be remunerative as it includes a reasonable return to farmers, apart from covering the cost of inputs.

(b) The Cotton Corporation of India Limited had been directed to step up its purchase operations to provide stability to prices of cotton especially in regions where prices approach support levels. Accordingly, CCI has already purchased 9.43 lakh bales of cotton till 14.3.90 as compared to purchase of only 4.36 lakh bales during the corresponding period in the previous season. Quotas for the export of 11.50 lakh bales of staple cotton have been released (as against 1 lakh bales released last year) to provide benefit of higher international prices to growers. Reserve Bank of India have relaxed selective credit control restrictions on purchase of cotton.

Scheme for Flood Control in Assam

1480. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any comprehensive plan for the control