

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1326
ANSWERED ON- 06/12/2024

ACCESS TO CHEAPER INPUTS FOR TEXTILE SECTOR

1326. SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Indian textile sector requires access to cheaper inputs to achieve the ambitious target of \$350 billion by 2030, and if so, the steps being taken in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government considered removing import duties on all varieties of cotton, including cotton waste, to ensure affordability and availability of raw materials for the industry, and the measures being considered to enhance cotton productivity, particularly through the development and promotion of specialized seed varieties?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a): The Indian textiles industry is one of the largest in the world with a large raw material base and manufacturing strength across the value chain from fibre to fabric to garments. India has the advantage of having a strong raw material base of natural fibre including cotton as well as man-made fibre. Moreover, the Government of India is implementing various schemes/initiatives to encourage and promote the textile sector. The major schemes/initiatives include PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme; Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme focusing on MMF Fabric, MMF Apparel and Technical; National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) focusing on Research Innovation & Development, Promotion and Market Development; SAMARTH – Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector with the objective providing demand driven, placement oriented, skilling program; Silk Samagra-2 for comprehensive development of sericulture value chain.; National Handicraft Development Program etc. Further, the Government of India is implementing National Handloom Development Programme and Raw Material Supply Scheme to promote handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers across the country. These schemes and policy initiatives as part of the government's roadmap aim to leverage and catalyse these inherent strengths to help the textile sector achieve the USD 350 billion goal by 2030.

(b): The Government is continuously monitoring export performance and taking various measures to boost production and exports. Basic Customs Duty has already been removed on Extra Long Staple Fibre of Raw Cotton effective from 20.02.2024.

The Government has been increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton over the years to encourage farmers for cultivation of cotton and ensure remunerative prices. During the year 2024-25, MSP for medium staple cotton and long staple cotton has increased to Rs. 7,121/ quintal and Rs.7,521/ quintal respectively, which is 7.6% and 7.1% higher than previous year.
