

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1600
ANSWERED ON- 31/07/2026

DEVELOPING INDIA AS A GLOBAL CIRCULAR TEXTILE RECYCLING HUB

1600. SMT. SUDHA MURTY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has finalised an operational roadmap to execute the short-term (0-2 year) targets in the textile waste value chain report, including setting up the Inter-Ministerial Task Force;
- (b) the status of infrastructure upgrades for the short-term pilot recycling clusters proposed for Panipat and Tiruppur; and
- (c) whether Government plans to leverage India's current success in textile waste recovery to establish the country as a high-value global processing hub for sustainable textiles, creating a structured, revenue-generating economic engine similar to India's position as a global hub for Ship Breaking?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Textiles has undertaken a study titled “Mapping of Textile Waste Value Chain in India”. The report estimates the generation of textile waste from pre-consumer sources such as manufacturing waste and post-consumer disposal. More than 70 percent of the total textile waste is currently recovered and routed into recycling, upcycling, downcycling or reuse streams. The findings further indicate that around 95 per cent of pre-consumer textile waste is recovered, reflecting the strength of recovery networks across the value chain.

Also, the Government has constituted an Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Task Force, which serves as a platform for deliberation on issues pertaining to sustainable production, certification, exports, etc. The Task Force has facilitated various industry centric programmes, which focus on exchange of best practices and knowledge through platforms including Circular Samvaad and Cluster Exchange Mechanism.

In the Union Budget 2026–27, the Hon'ble Finance Minister announced the "Tex-Eco Initiative" to promote a globally competitive and sustainable textiles and apparel sector, operational on Pan-India including Panipat and Tiruppur. The initiative aims to support innovative technologies for the circular economy, including textile waste management, recycling, and value addition, as well as the development of recycled fibres, new materials, sustainable packaging, and other high-value products from discarded textiles, in collaboration

with research institutions, Textile Research Associations, Centres of Excellence, industry, start-ups, and other relevant stakeholders.

Further, in view of the growing global importance of environmentally sustainable production practices including green technology adoption, recycling and waste reduction, and their anticipated benefits in terms of enhanced global competitiveness, improved market access, enhanced environmental & economic resilience, and strengthened investor confidence, a number of initiatives have been taken, which include:

- i. The Government has been facilitating a series of pilot projects across the country to raise awareness and build capacity on global best practices of sustainable production & consumption with focus on subjects such as:
 - A project titled “Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Textile Fashion Supply Chain” in partnership with UNIDO and supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been initiated to eliminate hazardous chemicals from the apparel fashion supply chain in India while promoting sustainable practices aimed at reducing environmental impacts particularly in terms of energy and waste use, and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - ‘Accelerating the Transition of the Indian Textile Sector towards Circularity’ (In-Text India) is being implemented in collaboration with UNEP. It focuses on scaling circular business models by leveraging Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) methodologies.
- ii. In order to mitigate the effects of increasing textile waste, the Government has undertaken a number of activities including signing of an MoU between the Textiles Committee, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to promote the use of upcycled products in Government procurement.
