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The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council [TEXPROCIL]
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IBTEX No. 99 of 2017 May 18, 2017

USD 64.36 | EUR 71.70 | GBP 83.35 | JPY 0.58

Cotton Market

Spot Price (Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm		
Rs./Bale	**Rs./Candy**	**USD Cent/lb**
20055	41950	**83.11**
Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), May		
Rs./Bale	**Rs./Candy**	**USD Cent/lb**
21450	44868	**88.89**

International Futures Price	
NY ICE USD Cents/lb (May 2017)	81.32
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (July 2017)	15,625
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	**87.47**
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**90.8**

Cotton guide:

The excessive rate of change in price with respect to change in normal time makes any underlying asset volatile. The cotton market has witnessed heavy volatility and the aforementioned theory has worked very well for cotton. Cotton price which moved from 76 cents all the way to 87 has come down sharply to trade near 80 cents on Wednesday's trading session.

This morning ICE cotton for July is trading at 80.42 up by 0.31% from the previous close. We believe market would remain juxtaposed with heavy instability in the near term. It's the matter of time once 80 cent is broken down then the price could come under stress and may move near the mean price band of 78 to 80 cents.

The market would be profound to watch the today's US export sales figure which off late has been the key catalyst for cotton price movement. Any major decline/rise in the cotton export sales figure would determine the market condition and price movement.
Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us : mailto:research@kotakcommodities.com, **Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source**

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global cotton output to increase 7% in 2017-18: USDA

World cotton crop in 2017-18 is expected to be 113.2 million bales, 7 per cent (7.3 million bales) above the 2016-17 estimate, due to a rebound in global area devoted to cotton, according to the US department of agriculture's (USDA's) initial projection. Global area is forecast at 31.8 million hectares (78.5 million acres), the highest in three years.

Although most major producing countries are expected to increase cotton area, the global yield is projected to decrease slightly from 2016-17's 3-year high to 776 kilograms per hectare (692 pounds per harvested acre).

India is forecast to remain the leading cotton producer in 2017-18, accounting for 28 million bales of production, or 25 per cent of the world total. India's output is projected nearly 6 per cent above the 2016-17 crop, as cotton area is expected to increase nearly 10 per cent due to higher cotton prices relative to competing crop prices. Limiting the production increase is a projected yield that is below 2016-17 but still near the 5-year average.

China is forecast to produce 23.5 million bales of cotton in 2017-18, three per cent above the previous season and the largest crop in three years. Area is expected to rise from 2016-17 to 3 million hectares, but will remain relatively low because Government policies have reduced support for cotton farmers while production costs remain high. With area concentrated in the high-yielding Xinjiang region, the 2017-18 national yield is forecast near 2016-17's record yield of 1,708 kilograms per hectare.

Cotton production in Pakistan, Brazil, and Australia is also forecast to increase in 2017-18. In Pakistan, higher area and an above-average yield are expected to push the crop 10 per cent higher to 8.5 million bales, the largest in three years. For Brazil, increased area is nearly offset by a lower yield, resulting in a crop that is expected to expand three per cent and equal the 2014-15 production. In Australia, production is projected to increase nine per cent in 2017-18 despite a considerable anticipated area reduction; most of the area decline is expected in dryland planting. As a result, the larger share of the Australian crop under irrigation will boost the national yield forecast some 40 per cent in 2017-18.

Meanwhile, world cotton consumption is forecast to increase 2.3 per cent (nearly 2.6 million bales) above the 2016-17 estimate to nearly 115.8 million bales, as per USDA's initial 2017-18 projection. The increase reflects anticipated growth in the world economy. Cotton mill use is led by China and India, with a combined 2017-18 consumption projected at 61.5 million bales, or 53 per cent of the global total; cotton mill use is forecast to grow slightly above one per cent in each country. The largest growth of the major cotton spinners, however, is forecast to occur in Vietnam, where 2017-18 cotton mill use is projected 11 per cent higher at 5.9 million bales

Source: fibre2fashion.com - May 18, 2017

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Pakistan reimposes import duty & sales tax on cotton

In view of cotton import in large volumes in recent months, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Government of Pakistan has approved reinstatement of import (customs) duty and sales tax on import of cotton. The decision, to be effective from July 15 this year, is expected to result in greater sowing and harvest of cotton in the upcoming season.

While customs duty will be levied at four per cent rate, sales tax would be imposed at five per cent rate.

"On a proposal by the Finance Division, the ECC approved the restoration of import duty and sales tax on import of cotton with effect from 15th July 2017," an official statement said.

"The decision has been made to boost the confidence of domestic cotton growers during the upcoming sowing season," said finance minister Ishaq Dar who chaired the ECC meeting.

The government has withdrawn levy of import duty and sales tax on cotton import nearly seven months back, after a decline in cotton production last season.

Pakistan, which has traditionally been among largest raw cotton exporters, has been importing cotton for the last two years to meet its domestic consumption of around 15 million bales

Source: fibre2fashion.com- May 17, 2017

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Pakistan: Cotton market saw revival in buying interest

With some spinners moving to replenish their stocks, cotton market on Tuesday saw revival in buying interest. Some spinners also made big-lot deals with steady flow of buying orders keeping prices firm at overnight level.

Brokers said that the rising trend in world cotton prices could have induced some spinners to build up stocks at current rates.

The Karachi Cotton Association spot rates were firm at overnight level. Major deals on the ready counter that changed hands were: 500 bales from Chichawatni at Rs6,600 per maund (around 37 kilograms), 400 bales from Noorpur Nauranga at Rs6,940, and 1,393 bales from Bahawalpur at Rs7,000.

While, at the Karachi Cotton Exchange on Tuesday trading activity remain slow. The spot rates remained firm and unchanged at Rs6,700/maund (37.324kg) and Rs7,180/40kg. Ex-Karachi rates also stood firm at Rs6,835/maund and Rs7,325/40kg after an addition of Rs135 and Rs145 as upcountry expenses, respectively.

According to estimates, world's cotton production is expected to rise by 10 to 15 percent next season. Pakistan is also estimated to produce around 10pc more cotton.

Other leading cotton markets, including China and India closed with fresh gains.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- May 17, 2017

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Ghana: Government to revive initiatives on garments and textiles

Trades and Industries Minister, Mr Alan Kyerematen, has announced plans to revive the onetime special initiatives on garments and textiles as part of the government's industrialisation drive to create employment and boost growth.

He is hopeful that the revival of the textile and garment initiative, which will be pursued alongside the integrated iron and automobile assembling plans, will be realise the next five years.

At the opening of the second National Single Window conference on trade facilitation in Accra, Mr Kyerematen said the garment textiles and the automobile assembling plants were key areas the government was seeking to diversify into, hopefully within the next five years.

"We will be diversifying our economy away from cocoa and gold to the petrochemical industry, creative arts and other sectors as we seek to create trade platforms that will require us to trade across borders in a cost effective manner," Mr Kyerematen said.

He also appealed to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to assist Ghana to fund its trade facilitation processes, which were costly and required capital injection.

The WTO has estimated that the trade facilitation agreement would generate over US$1 trillion in benefits annually to developing countries.
The minister also announced the government's plan to partner the private sector to establish at least one major industrial park in each of the 10 regions.

Industrialisation drive

This is also expected to aid its flagship industrialisation One-District, One-Factory policy so that industries can be established in any part of the country.

A Turkish firm has indicated its intention to invest US$150 million into the policy which will be a big boost to the country's industrialisation agenda.
"With such industrial parks, companies can establish in each of the regions they prefer due to the available resources at the particular location," he said.

On the facilitation agreement, the Trade Minister embraced the concept and called for more collaboration between the implementing agencies and the government.

"I see the combination of the enhanced trade facilitation and trade development programmes as a dynamic synergy for the economic development of our country" he added.
The Single Window is, therefore, enshrined in the TFA which is expected to help implement many of the policy measures by the government.

These developments, he said, were part of the government's ambition to fundamentally change the way international businesses are regulated in the country by providing an enhanced business regulatory environment.

Source: graphic.com.gh- May 17, 2017

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Tanzania: Cotton Sector Revival Seen On Contract Farming

The government is determined to revive the cotton sub-sector and increase production in a bid to boost the agricultural sector and the textile industry which at one time was the country's biggest source of export revenue.

The Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) Director General, Marco Mtunga said in Mwanza over the weekend that some of the strategies being adopted towards that end include adoption of contract farming and multiplication of UKM08, a new certified cotton seed which is expected to improve the quality of cotton lint while boosting cotton yields in Tanzania.

"Application of Good Agricultural Practices supported by adequate supply of quality inputs (seeds, insecticides, sprayers, fertilisers) will raise cotton output by over 60 per cent in the next three years," he told eight Regional Commissioners from the Western Cotton Growing Areas (WCGAs) who visited the Mwabusalu seed multiplication Ward in Meatu District, Simiyu Region.

Proper processing of seed by delinting which is the removal of lint from it is critical in ensuring high germination rates and limiting disease spread. Mtunga said the government and donors have supported research at the Ukiriguru Agricultural Research Institute (UARI) to come up with the best seeds that could be used by cotton farmers. It has developed a number of new seed varieties - one of which - UKM08 is currently being multiplied.

The UKM08 has a ginning outturn (GOT - lint as a share of seed cotton) of 42% compared to 34 per cent for UK91, the current major variety, and a 25% higher yield. "As a sector, quality seed forms the basis of quality and high yields in cotton farming. In order to ensure a sustainable revival process of quality cotton seed, the government has created an enabling environment for the private sector to invest in seed multiplication, processing and marketing of cotton seed for planting to farmers," he said.

The revival process will involve all stages of seed production from breeder seed, pre-basic seed, and basic seed to certified seed. Ukriguru Research Institute will produce both breeder and pre-basic seeds at Ukiriguru and Nkanziga farm in Misungwi respectively then the private sector will collect the seeds for further multiplication at Mwabusalu Ward in Meatu District.
The basic seeds produced in Meatu will be taken to Igunga District to be multiplied to get certified seed ready for distribution to farmers.

Due to fusarium wilt infestation in many cotton producing areas, which is a disease that can last in the soil for over 30 years, suitable areas for seed multiplication include the whole of Tabora region, Singida region, Meatu district and some parts of Itilima district only.

Tanzania Cotton Board has been instructed by the government to ensure that all cotton farmers plant certified seeds come 2019.

In implementation of the government directive, during 2016/17 farming season, a total of 4,108 acres have been planted to cotton at Mwabusalu Ward with a target of producing 500 tons of delinted seeds which will be adequate to plant 55,000 acres in Igunga during 2017/18 farming season with an expected output of 7,000 tons of certified delinted seeds.

Using the seed rate of 6 kilogrammes per acre, the quantity of seeds to be produced will be enough to plant one million acres which the national acreage. Igunga District this farming season planted 46,100 acres of UKM08 standard seed which is expected to produce 4,000 tons of seeds.

Nzega District planted 4,500 acres to cotton with an expected output of 700 tons. This quantity if delinted will cover more than 10 districts during 2017/18 farming. In order to sustain seed multiplication programme, Tsh. 377 million has been budgeted by the Cotton Development Trust Fund to be spent on construction of irrigation infrastructure at Nkanziga farm in Misungwi to boost production of prebasic seeds.

"In order to successfully rollout the UKM08, avoid contamination, and maintain purity of the seed we have put a system in place that allows the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute to identify, register, inspect and certify cotton farms that are planting UKM08. Deliberate adulteration of the seed crop will not be tolerated.

TCB is calling upon cotton farmers and buying agents to resist the urge to adulterate cotton otherwise they will face the full force of law through the mobile courts which helped to curb adulteration the previous season leading to over 95 per cent germination of the current crop.

Other efforts being undertaken as part of the revival process include sensitisation and training of key stakeholders".

Source: allafrica.com- May 17, 2017

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Cotton 2040 Coalition Makes Case for Taking Sustainable Cotton Mainstream

Cotton is an integral part of the apparel and textile industry providing livelihoods for over 300 million people across the globe. The environmental and social implications of cotton production are, however, significant. The water footprint for one kilogram of cotton equates to approximately 10,000 to 20,000 liters and the intensive use of agricultural chemicals can have severe health impacts on workers and surrounding ecosystems.

Shifting cotton production to a more sustainable model presents a number of opportunities across the value chain, yet only 13 percent of cotton is grown in a sustainable manner, with only a fifth of this number actually being sourced by companies for their products.

In an effort to spur a paradigm shift, leading international retailers, cotton standards, industry initiatives and stakeholders are banding together to form Cotton 2040, an initiative that seeks to make sustainable cotton a mainstream commodity rather than a niche market.

Convened by sustainability non-profit Forum for the Future with support from the C&A Foundation — whose namesake company recently debuted the world's first Cradle to Cradle Certified™ GOLD T-shirts — the initiative includes retailers such as M&S and Target, industry standards Better Cotton Initiative and Cotton Made in Africa, organic standards represented by Textile Exchange, the Fairtrade Foundation, industry initiatives Cotton Connect, IDH, Cotton Australia, Value Added in Africa and Organic Cotton Accelerator, as well as the London College of Fashion.

The initiative has identified four key priority areas to be tackled over the next two to three years by working groups to share with the wider industry:
• Building Demand
• Closing the Loop: Scaling up cotton recycling and circularity
• Traceability: Building greater visibility and transparency throughout the cotton value chain and across standards
• Upskilling for resilience: Creating a cross-industry forum to build resilience among smallholder cotton farmers in a changing world

"Past debate around sustainable cotton standards and industry initiatives has at times been polarizing, but we know to make effective progress we need to work together. At Forum, we believe that collaborative action is essential in order to address complex issues that no one entity — whether a business, standard, consumer group, NGO or government — can tackle alone," said Sally Uren, CEO of Forum for the Future.

"We're delighted that leaders across the global cotton industry are ready and willing to come together and are excited to help steer them forward through this unique and growing partnership."

The coalition is currently seeking additional partners with resources, expertise and drive to take action in one or more of these four areas. More specifically, it is inviting organizations to get involved in the 'Building Demand' work stream and benefit from testing and piloting the framework internally.

The first priority, 'Building Demand,' was launched in November 2016 with the aim of increasing uptake of sustainable cotton from the industry to drive production from 13 percent to beyond 30 percent from 2020. Currently in the works are:

• A sustainable sourcing guide, which will serve as a standard neutral decision-making tool for companies wanting to start or increase sustainable cotton sourcing. It will help them develop strategies across different standards, types of cotton or sourcing regions.

• A clear business case for sourcing more sustainable cotton, which can be used to drive internal engagement of procurement teams and others and will include corresponding tools to help achieve this.

• Lessons and insights from those who have taken a pioneering role in sustainable cotton sourcing so that those starting out can go further, faster.

Before being launched and shared with the wider textile industry in October 2017, these tools are being tested and piloted by coalition members.

"Cotton 2040 is not a new platform, but a smart way to accelerate the many good initiatives out there working to mainstream more sustainable cotton. Together, we can be more than the sum of our parts and jointly tackle the effects of one of the world’s thirstiest crops,” said Leslie Johnston, Executive Director of C&A Foundation.

“Last year, Target announced our responsible sourcing aspirations around worker well-being, net-positive manufacturing and sustainable raw materials. These aspirations are guiding our work to ensure the owned brand products we deliver to Target guests are made ethically and responsibly,” said Kelly Caruso, President of Target Sourcing Services.

“We’re proud to be a member of Cotton 2040 and have a seat at the table in an initiative that has the potential to change the industry. We’re committed to championing responsibly grown and harvested cotton and this is a strong step toward making that happen.”

Launched in 2006, Sustainable Brands has become a global learning, collaboration, and commerce community of forward-thinking business and brand strategy, marketing, innovation and sustainability professionals who are leading the way to a better future.

Source: Sustainablebrands.com- May 17, 2017

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NATIONAL NEWS

India to sign MoU with Japan's QTEC for quality compliance

The government has decided to sign an MoU with Japan Textile Products Quality and Technology Centre (QTEC) to jointly set up and encourage quality compliance activities.

The textile and clothing industry is aiming to increase its exports to Japan, complying with quality requirements of the Japanese market, the Textiles Ministry said in a statement.

In this regard, it was decided to extend helping hand to the domestic textile for better understand quality culture in Japan, particularly concerning textiles and apparels.

"It was decided by the Government of India to enter into an MoU with Japan's QTEC through the Textiles Committee, with a view to jointly establish and encourage quality compliance activities," it said.

In this context, industry capacity building programme is being organised at nine major textile centres in India. It was was held here today.

Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Textiles Subrata Gupta said that though India's manufacturing capacity is enormous, its exports to Japan are very minimal in textiles.

He said that by changing the mind-set, India can compete with Japanese quality requirements and hence enhance quantum of exports.

Secretary, Textiles Committee, Ajit B Chavan said that a major reason behind low exports to Japan is lack of awareness about the Japanese textile quality requirements.

QTEC provides facilities for quality evaluation, standardisation, technology evaluation, conformity assessment, technical guidance and education, factory certification for the textile industry of Japan.

Source: business-standard.com- May 17, 2017

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Textile sector pins hope on 5% GST rate

It provides direct employment to an estimated 45 mn individuals and indirect jobs to another 60 mn

The textile industry is awaiting the central government's decision on whether the new goods and services tax (GST) rate would be five per cent for segments presently not subject to any indirect tax or stick to one of 12 per cent.

The sector provides direct employment to an estimated 45 million individuals and indirect jobs to another 60 million. And, is a tenth of the country's manufacturing. Textile commodities have a seven point weight in the Consumer Price Index.

Observers say there is a large 'grey market' which is completely outside the ambit of tax payment.

Currently, fabrics are fully exempt from taxes but not yarn or garments. The way GST works, with input credit, the duty will apply to all on value addition and can be collected back from buyers. However, a segment that has been completely out of a tax regime will find it difficult to accept a 12 per cent rate.

Rahul Mehta, chairman, Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), said: "A low GST rate of five per cent, applied uniformly across the sector, will propel domestic production and facilitate and encourage voluntary (tax) compliance. This growth would enable India to achieve its target of generating 35 million jobs, and attracting investment worth $200 billion by 2025."

Adding: "A multiple tax structure will also compromise fibre neutrality, with producers moving to manufacture of garments made from lower taxed fabric. Such a structure might also lead to disputes in classification of textile products to different tax categories."

CMAI says extension of GST to both fabrics and apparel would mean a substantial expansion of the tax base. Assuming even 50 per cent compliance in the sector, a five per cent GST would generate annual revenue of Rs 10,850 crore for the government.

The current system, say observers, is marked by exemptions, concessions and tax cascade. Fabrics are exempt under both the central excise and state value added tax (VAT). The effective rate on garments is also low (1.2 per cent excise and five per cent under state VAT). The total of output tax from the sector is estimated to be about Rs 3,400 crore a year.

Source: business-standard.com- May 17, 2017

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Sudden surge in cotton futures catches investors by surprise

Kolkata: A sudden surge in the cotton futures price in the country caught market participants by surprise due to overwhelmingly bearish fundamentals. There is a sufficient available stock in the country coupled with reports of higher acreage estimates in India and world on anticipation of normal weather forecast in the cotton growing countries.

"Cotton futures on Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) surged recently, tracking firm International prices which climb to highest in three years amid buoyant demand for U.S. exports and tight local supplies of cotton. Most traders and textile mills were bearish on cotton prices, as world output is forecast to grow in the coming cotton season," said Ritesh Kumar Sahu (fundamental analyst-agri commodities), Angel Commodities Broking.

ICE cotton for July delivery climb about 12% in three trading sessions similarly on MCX, cotton futures for May delivery surged almost 4% or Rs. 800 in two trading sessions to touch Rs. 21,500 per bale, but corrected about Rs. 300 on second day to close at Rs. 21,210.

During the 2016/17, cotton futures have been trending higher since second half of December 2016 till last week of March 2017 and now consolidating in the range between Rs. 20,500 – 21,600. However, the prices have been quite volatile during this consolidating phase due to gap in demand and supplies situation, despite bearish sentiments in the market due to higher supplies and lower export prospects.

As per Cotton Association of India, cotton supplies have improved in last two months, but the increasing mill demand has kept the prices supported at higher levels. There was sufficient availability of cotton during 2016/17 season, despite lower acreage last year, due to high carryover stocks, improved production on better yields, lower than expected domestic consumption and exports.

Cotton prices during the first 4 month of the current calendar year (2017) have been higher by at least 34% and 25% compared to prices during calendar year 2015 and 2016 respectively for the same period. This season country witnessed slower domestic arrivals due to demonetization during peak arrival months. This results into build up of cotton inventory with the farmers and aggregators which create an artificial shortage in the country that results in record imports. The imports into the country are expected to be around 30 lakh bales in 2016/17, but may be revised lower if international prices will not correct in coming weeks.

For 2017/18 cotton season, the area under cotton in the country is expected to increase by at least 10-15% to over 115 lakh hectares as compared to 105 lakh hectares last year. This increase is expected as farmers have been encouraged by better returns due to high cotton prices and improved yields last year. As per trade sources, cotton area expected to increase in Punjab as farmers may switch from rice to cotton because of higher returns. In the central Indian states –Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh- the planting will begin with the onset of monsoon and acreage is expected to higher compare to last year.

As per latest United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), India cotton production is forecast at 358.8 lakh bales (1 bale =170 kg) or 6.01 million tonnes in 2017/18, up by 5.7% compared to last year productions. Cotton planting has already begun in the northern Indian states of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. The trade estimates have been increased for the next season but the stock positions in the country is expected to be higher due to good production and higher beginning stocks.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com- May 18, 2017

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Government mulls Rs 160/quintal hike in cotton MSP for 2017-18

NEW DELHI: As farmers prepare fields for kharif sowing, the government is considering increasing the minimum support price (MSP) of cotton by Rs 160 per quintal to Rs 4,320 for the 2017-18 crop year beginning July.

It is also planning to promote Bt cotton variety developed by the government research body ICAR and expects increased area coverage and better output on hopes of good southwest monsoon that has already hit Kerala in advance.

For the ongoing 2016-17 crop year, MSP of medium staple cotton has been fixed at Rs 3,860 per quintal and long staple cotton at Rs 4,160. According to sources, the Agriculture Ministry has proposed increase in cotton MSP by Rs 160 per quintal for the 2017-18 crop year, based on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

It has moved a Cabinet note for inter-ministerial comments on fixing MSP at Rs 4,020 per quintal for medium staple cotton and Rs 4,320 per quintal for long staple cotton for the 2017-18 crop year.

That apart, sources said since much of the cotton area is under Bt cotton seeds of private companies, the government is planning to promote first generation Bt cotton variety developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and has asked National Seed Corporation to ensure sufficient supply in the ensuing kharif season.

With higher MSP and normal monsoon forecast, area under cotton is expected to increase next year. In 2016-17, cotton area had dropped to 102.78 lakh hectares, but output rose by 8.57 per cent to 32.58 million bales (of 170 kg each) due to good yields.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com- May 17, 2017

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Rising cost of production worries MP textile sector

Even as the Madhya Pradesh government is planning to come out with a special policy to boost the garment sector, industry players are worried over the increasing cost of production. Rising costs of electricity and the relatively higher minimum wages in the state are among the factors affecting the competitiveness of the state textile industry.

"Textile industries in the region are reeling under the high pressure of increased labour wages and power costs making their products expensive against rival countries," a leading daily quoted Madhya Pradesh Textiles Mills Association secretary Mahesh Chandra Rawat as saying.

Price variations and poor quality of cotton in the region are also affecting the textile sector in the state, according to industry experts.

Further, textile mills are currently reluctant to buy and stock cotton as they are still unclear about new tax slabs that will come into force from July 1, once the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is rolled out.

In the past six years, about Rs 7,000 crore has been invested in the state's textile sector, resulting in job creation for 40,000 persons. At the 72nd All India Textile Conference held this year in Bhopal, agreements were signed for setting up of new textile projects in the state involving Rs 4,000 crore investment.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- May 17, 2017

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Manipur to get 16 handloom & handicraft emporiums

In an effort to increase job opportunity and attract tourists at large in Manipur, the Central government will set up handloom and handicraft emporiums in all 16 districts of the state, said Thongam Biswajit, Manipur minister of commerce and industries. The handloom and handicraft items of the state are well-known in various parts of the country.

the Centre will also provide a subsidy of 70 per cent for the revival of spinning mill at Loitang Khunou in Imphal, said media reports quoting the minister. It is the only spinning mill for cotton in the entire northeast region.

The minister was at the opening of new bank accounts of weavers, which was jointly organised by the department of textiles, commerce & industry and the directorate of handlooms & textiles. Nearly 300 weavers opened their bank accounts.

"Handloom and handicraft is very important because it is the main source of income in our state and opening of bank accounts of weavers will check transparency of any implementing agency," said the minister.

Further, the minister said that with the rise in unemployment in the state, the government is planning to generate job opportunity for 1 lakh people under various departments.

Manipur has 2.04 lakh handloom workers and 1.90 lakh looms, as per the 2009-10 handloom census making it the state with the highest concentration of weavers in possession of looms.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- May 17, 2017

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