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The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)

Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai 400004. Maharashtra State. INDIA

W. www.texprocil.org E. ibtex@texprocil.org T. +91-22-23632910 to 12 F. +91-22-23632914

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US May textiles and apparel imports up 22 per cent

US textile and apparel imports were up 22.6 per cent in May 2021 compared with the same period in 2019, reveals CCF Group stats. Both US apparel imports volume and value moved up sharply year-on-year and month-on-month but they were close to or lower than the level in 2019. Therefore, the import volume and value did not recover to the level in the same period of 2019.

In May, US textile and apparel import average unit price decreased compared with the previous month. From May 2020 to May 2021, the average unit price has been in shock, with a certain regularity. In May 2021, the average unit price continued to decline month-on-month.

The unit price of US textile and apparel imported from China has dropped greatly since the second half of 2019. The sharp decline in average unitprice may be due to dropping price of China's export commodities, on the one hand, and the change in the commodity structure of US textile and apparel imported from China, on the other hand.

From January to May, the proportion of US textile and apparel imported from China decreased by 1.6 percentage points and 6.4 percentage points compared with the same period in 2019, and the volume and value of apparel also dropped.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– July 30, 2021

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USA: Care Labeling for Apparel Will Remain Mandatory

The Federal Trade Commission recently voted to retain the mandatory care labeling requirements for apparel and certain textile piece goods, reversing course on a June 2020 proposal that would have repealed those requirements. The FTC said that it will continue to consider ways to improve these requirements to the benefit of U.S. consumers and businesses.

In July 2020, the FTC proposed to repeal the care labeling rule altogether on the basis that it (1) may not be necessary to ensure that manufacturers provide care instructions, (2) may have failed to keep up with a dynamic marketplace, and (3) may negatively affect the development of new cleaning technologies and care symbol revisions. The agency reversed course after receiving more than 200 comments from the public, with an overwhelming majority of those opposed to the repeal.

In effect since 1971, the care labeling rule requires manufacturers and importers of apparel and certain textile piece goods to attach labels with care instructions to their products, including instructions for dry cleaning or washing, bleaching, drying, and ironing.

Source: strtrade.com– July 30, 2021

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UK retail sales up 0.5% MoM in June; clothing store sales down 4.7%

Retail sales volumes in the UK increased by 0.5 per cent in June 2021 when compared with May 2021 and were 9.5 per cent higher than in Feb 2020, before the impact of COVID. However, clothing stores reported a monthly decline of 4.7 per cent. The online retail spending values also decreased to 26.7 per cent in June 2021, down from 28.4 per cent in May 2021.

The volume of sales for the three months to June 2021 was 12.2 per cent higher than in the previous three months, driven in large part by particularly strong sales in April when non-essential retailing re-opened, according to the data released by the Office for National Statistics.

The proportion of retail sales conducted online remains substantially higher than before the pandemic, but in June most retail sectors reported a fall in their proportions of online sales as consumers returned to physical stores. Online spending values fell in June 2021 by 4.7 per cent when compared with May 2021, with all sectors except clothing stores reporting monthly falls in their online sales.

As for the non-store retailers, they reported a monthly decline of 3.7 per cent in June 2021. However, sales remain much higher than their pre-pandemic level, with volumes in June 2021 being 39.9 per cent higher than in February 2020.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– July 30, 2021

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US apparel imports from China fall as Bangladesh, Vietnam gain ground

US apparel and footwear imports from China declined to 37.9 per cent in 2019. It was 50.7 per cent in 2010. Similarly, the EU's imports from China declined to 36.1 per cent in 2019, from 47.6 per cent in 2010.

Bangladesh and Vietnam have benefited the most due to the shift in apparel and footwear exports from China. In 2019, both countries' combined share of apparel and footwear exports to the US and the European Union (EU) equaled half of China's share.

Vietnam is more focused on the US, while Bangladesh focuses more on the EU for a number of reasons. Vietnam produces more value added items, which are received at comparatively higher prices. In contrast, Bangladesh exports large quantities but gets low prices.

Bangladesh's apparel and footwear exports share to the US increased to 4.3 per cent in 2019, which was 3.5 per cent in 2010. The country's export share to the EU stood at 13.2 per cent in 2019, up from 6.6 per cent in 2010.

Vietnam's export share to the US and the EU rose to 14.9 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively in 2019. Vietnam's shares to these two traditional markets were 6.6 per cent and 4 per cent respectively in 2010.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– July 30, 2021

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Japan's apparel imports fall

Japan has recorded a 2.13 per cent dip in apparel from January to May 2021. There has been continuous fall in woven garment imports. Japan's import of woven clothing plunged by 8.35 per cent in these five-months. However imports of knitted garments were up 4.78 per cent in the same period.

Of the major shippers to Japan, China, India and Bangladesh registered growth in shipments. On the other hand, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia and Sri Lanka recorded a fall in shipments. Japan is a sophisticated market, leaning towards small-lot and short cycle delivery of supplies. Consumption is diversified and quality expectations are high. High quality and expensive Indian garments are gaining popularity in Japan. Customers like selecting garments that have a different character when compared with dresses and kimono worn at such occasions as weddings and parties.

India Trend Fair was held in Japan, February 12 to 14, 2020. The trade show showcased Made in India clothing and accessories to Japanese buyers. The business matching event focused on knitted and woolen clothing as Japan is a major world market for wool, wool blended, and other textile products. The event featured over 300 product categories and over 25 pavilions.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– July 30, 2021

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China's CISMA 2021 to showcase innovations in sewing industry

China International Sewing Machinery & Accessories Show (CISMA) 2021, to be held in Shanghai from Sept 26-29, 2021, will serve as a platform to showcase industrial progresses and innovations to global sewing industry. It will lead all sewing enterprises to concentrate on coordinated growth, follow development trends and meet the needs of downstream users.

Being organised by the China Sewing Machinery Association (CSMA), the event will be held at Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC).

The theme for CISMA 2021 is 'smart manufacturing, intelligence enabling and wisdom gathering' and seeks to stimulate digital and intelligent upgrade. It also aims to enhance sewing sector's competitiveness so as to secure an upper hand in global arena and make more contributions towards China's manufacturing power strategy, CSMA's deputy director-general Yang Xiaojing said while addressing a press conference.

Xiaojing added that through concerted efforts by the whole industry, the 13th five-year plan has been has successfully fulfilled, and they are now marching towards achieving the 14th five-year plan.

The event will also showcase new equipment and technological applications and help the industry to know how to turn scientific achievements into solutions, CSMA general secretary Chen Ji said. CISMA 2021 would exhibit a wide range of intelligent achievements and technical solutions, which could assist with downstream users in solving problems such as cost reduction and efficiency improvement, QA, meeting client-specific needs, facilitating digital transformation.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– July 30, 2021

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Vietnam: Surplus Smart

With each passing season, consumers are pushed into buying the latest items to stay trendy. Clothing has complex supply chains that make it difficult to account for all of the emissions that come from producing a new jacket or a pair of jeans. But the obvious waste we can count is surplus fabric from the textile industry.

Thamonwan 'Amp' Virodchaiyan and her partner, Amorpol 'Pol' Huvanandana have launched "Moreloop", an online marketplace, which facilitates the selling of surplus fabrics from garment factories and upcycled fabric products.

Recently, Moreloop made its debut at the Seed Awards, an awards scheme designed to celebrate the most innovative and promising locally-led enterprises in sustainable development. The awards made the website one of the key players of the up-and-coming sustainable fashion market in Thailand. Guru speaks to the founders about their vision for Moreloop.

How did Moreloop come about?

Amp: It all began with my business plan and Pol's passion. After working for my family garment factory, I noticed the piles of leftover fabric at the end of the textile production, which went to waste. I also noticed the same problem in other factories I visited. Throwing away or stocking these extra fabrics is a waste of resources, financially and otherwise. When I shared this with Pol, who is familiar with marketplace startup businesses and has been passionate about waste management, we decided to create a platform for upcycling these textile wastes.

Pol: Moreloop was born to act as an intermediary between the factories and people who want to buy the surplus. We want to promote the use of leftover fabric or 'rubbish', as some may see it, so it can be upcycled and become added value. We also want to educate people about the impact of clothes by demonstrating how we can transform fabric waste sustainably.

Is there a difference in quality compared to a newly-produced fabric?

Amp: It's technically an old fabric that is still in good condition. Try picturing the process of producing 1,000 orders for shirts. A garment factory has to stock up on fabric in case of manufacturing mistakes and unpredictable accidents. If they are short of a yard of fabric, ordering a new lot would be problematic because it requires a minimum order quantity, not to mention the financial burden. These surplus fabrics is what we collect, not damaged ones.

How does Moreloop work?

Amp: Customers can fill out a form on the Moreloop website, where a few basic questions like 'What occasion or style are you looking for?' are asked to understand what they want. Moreloop then proposes material categories and colour palettes that match their needs. It's important to note that we cannot make customised Pantone colours because the fabrics are just surplus stock. We don't produce new fabrics.

Apart from selling surplus fabric, what other services does Moreloop offer?

Amp: Moreloop is more like a raw materials marketplace, where SMEs can access quality fabrics at reasonable prices. Producing made-to-order textiles is another feature. We provide textile production only if customers already have a design or pattern. Recently, we had a customer order our fabrics for an event decoration. For customers who only have an idea but don't know how to execute it, we offer free consultations.

Do you plan to diversify to other raw materials?

Amp: We are busy trying to manage these surplus fabrics, which is acquired from 70 factories. Though our main focus is on surplus fabrics from the textile industry, other raw materials like buttons, zips and straps are what we sell, as well. In the future, we do plan to expand Moreloop to other surplus materials.

Moreloop was part of the Seed Awards. How did that feel?

Pol: We were part of the Seed Awards for entrepreneurship in sustainable development to show the world who we are and what we do while seeking investors to expand the brand. Our next step is to improve Moreloop's infrastructure and human resources for brand expansion. We focus on the triple bottom line, which are people, profit and planet. Once Moreloop's core is strengthened enough and works sustainably, our next mission is to build brand awareness and promote our services through marketing.

What are your thoughts on sustainable fashion?

Amp: We can't deny that sustainable fashion has impacted the mainstream fashion world. We have seen many top brands create collections from recycled plastic and other waste. While end-of-the-line customers are also trying to adapt to this trend, I don't want people to see sustainable fashion just as a trend. The climate change issue is a threat that isn't temporarily. Just using biodegradable textiles or ordering recycled fabrics from us will not make you a sustainable fashion consumer. Proper pricing and amount of manufacturing should be your concern, too.

Pol: It depends on the knowledge and awareness we have about the product we buy. Everything has a price, whether it is before or after use. The term 'sustainable fashion' is broad, but it has the advantage of making it accessible to everyone.

Source: vnexplorer.net– July 30, 2021

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Pakistan's textile sector in macro sweep spot

The country's textile sector is in a macro sweet spot, amid rampant demand in the domestic market and internationally, as global economies experience "return to normal" phenomenon, pushing up orders for apparels, BOL News has learnt.

Pakistan's textile exports reached its highest level in history in FY21, being recorded at $15.4 billion (+23 per cent Y-o-Y) with the second half of FY 2021 exports exceeding that of the first half of FY 2021 by 7 per cent, the strongest since FY 2012, while compared to FY 2019, the second half exports were +19.10 per cent against 11.8 per cent in the first half, indicating a robust outlook for the sector in the near-term with order book stretching to 6 million to 9 million.

Hamza Kamal, an investment analyst at AKD Securities said: "We believe strict measures to clamp down the spread of virus in competitive economies, yielded some share to [the] local manufacturers where Pakistan's share in the US apparel imports improved to 2.7 per cent in 5MCY21 from 2.1/1.7 per cent in the same period last year/CY19.

"Even assuming normalisation of the same, which in our view would take time given higher domestic demand in competitive economies, exports trend could persist, amid sturdy global demand (US apparel imports is expected to surpass that of 2019, $111 billion, whereas in 5MCY21 it already stands at $41.90 billion, while Europe is yet to pick up pace)," Kamal said.

The textile spinners have benefitted the most in the current scenario.

The investment analyst added that the shift in the demand fundamentals have turned the table in favour of the spinning players where the lack of investment in infrastructure in yesteryears resulted in utilisation levels of the existing players closing in at full capacity as per the correspondence with these players, while low cotton output (7 million bales in FY21, the lowest in history) pulled up domestic cotton prices +54.40 per cent Y-o-Y in FY21 (international prices +37 per cent Y-o-Y) and consequently yarn prices.

The spinning sector posted earnings of Rs2.8 billion in the third quarter of FY 2021, compared with the loss of Rs60.30 million in the corresponding period of FY 2020, and the profit-after-tax of Rs269.10 million in the third quarter of FY 2019 with impetus coming from revenue growth of 23.7/21.5

per cent over FY20/19 and expanding the gross margins (in the third quarter of FY 2021, GMs stood at 16.7 per cent, compared to 11.3/8.3 per cent in the corresponding period of FY20/19.

He said the local demand for yarn, currently contributes 60 per cent to 65 per cent of the local textile market size as per the correspondence with the spinning players, is likely to drive up profitability at least in the near-term for these players (local yarn margin stands at Rs546/kg, compared with Rs485/kg on exports).

For Kamal, medium- to long-run outlook also looks promising with the capacity expansions positioning these manufacturers to capture the share from the Chinese yarn players (issues in Xinjiang has put multinational companies in Western world in a quandary with regard to sourcing arrangements) where lately India has benefited the most given lowdemand domestically (5MCY21 share US yarn imports: 9.2 per cent against 7.5 per cent in CY20).

Investment perspective

The local yarn manufacturers are unlikely to record material negative impact from the duty concessions on yarn imports since these mostly relate to filament yarn as against the cotton yarn, mainly produced by the local players.

“Hence, we see strong profits in the spinning segment continuing in the medium-run, where NCL (spinning contributes 50.70 per cent to gross profits) remains our preferred play in this backdrop,” Kamal added.

Overall, the sector is currently trading cheaply at a P/E of 3.02x, offering enticing capital upside.

Source: bolnews.com– July 30, 2021

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Economic growth: Pakistan — a frontrunner

The global economic revival appears to be staging a comeback from the pandemic crisis faster than expected. Faster-than-expected vaccination rates and return to near normalcy have led to upgrades in economies while lack of access to vaccines and renewed waves of Covid-19 cases in some countries, notably India, have led to downgrades, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

The IMF acknowledged stronger economic activity and revised its global growth forecast at six per cent for the current year and 4.9pc for the next year, with region-wise forecasts as follows:

	2020 (%)	2021 (%)
World	-3.2	6.0
Advanced Economies	-4.6	5.6
Euro Zone	-6.5	4.6
Emerging & developing Asia	-0.9	7.5
Emerging & developing Europe	-2.0	4.9
Latin America	-7.0	5.8
M.E & Central Asia	-2.6	4.0
Sub Saharan Africa	-1.8	3.4

Advanced Economies, Euro Zone and Latin America's economies suffered the most in 2020 but have staged an impressive comeback in 2021. Emerging and developing Asia suffered the least and their economic outlook for 2021 is in the lead.

The IMF revision downgraded India's 2021 growth forecast by three percentage points because of widespread incidence of Delta variant and resultant subdued economic activities.

The IMF considers Pakistan's growth as impressive and has revised upward the GDP growth projection to 3.9 percent for 2021 from its earlier projection of 1.5 percent. Pakistan's Finance Minister anticipates a 5 percent growth in FY2022 and more than 6 percent in FY2023.

While the global economic recovery continues unmoved by the 4th Covid-19 wave, a widening gap between advanced economies and many emerging market and developing economies is also surfacing.

The biggest challenge to businesses and industry in 2020 has been the disruptions in supply chains of finished goods and raw materials. In 2021, supply is returning towards normalcy. According to an IMF forecast, the global trade volumes would expand by 9.7 percent in 2021, moderating to 7 percent in 2022. Services businesses, notably, aviation industry, hotel industry and tourism are expected to recover more slowly, consistent with subdued cross-border travels until virus transmission declines to low levels everywhere.

Pakistan capitalized well on the global supply chain disruptions, notably, the finished textile goods because the leading competitors in the field – India and Bangladesh – could not meet the demand due to an acute Covid situation. Pakistan successfully cashed in on this opportunity. Its exports recorded an impressive growth, driven by the textiles, with over 30 percent growth. This growth in exports is however not sustainable and may hold good till such time the competitors, notably, India and Bangladesh do not stage a comeback in the global market.

Pakistan's textile industry should capitalize on this opportunity by reinvesting a good part of their windfall profits into upgrading their plants and technology to regain their once commanding position in the global market. The choice made in previous years by the textile industry of investing their gains in multiple venues of quick returns such as real estate was not a good choice. Arguably, their flawed approach to investment moved Pakistan out of its global leading position in textile exports. The government should also recognise the challenges ahead and must take measures at this stage to maintain country's growth in exports. Overall, Pakistan has managed well on all fronts during the Covid-19 crisis.

Apart from being rated as a frontrunner in economic growth in the region and beyond, it managed to uplift its social sector through multiple programs and cope with the pandemic challenge with one of the lowest global infection and death rates. It also performed well in its countrywide vaccination programme and is one of the few countries where door-to-door vaccination is being commenced for its citizens.

Source: brecorder.com– July 31, 2021

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NATIONAL NEWS

High tariffs faced by Indian exporters in EU, UK affecting exports performance: Govt

High tariffs faced by domestic exporters in the European Union and the UK as compared to zero duty access given by these countries to nations like Bangladesh and Cambodia are affecting India''s exports performance, Parliament was informed on Friday.

Minister of State for Textiles Darshana Jardosh also said that the textile industry has been hugely affected due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

India''s textiles exports in 2020 stood at USD 29.61 billion, while the shipments of Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia in that year were aggregated at USD 37.95 billion, USD 37.10 billion and USD 7.77 billion, respectively.

"High tariffs faced by Indian exporters in key markets such as the EU and the UK as compared to zero duty access given to competing nations like Bangladesh and Cambodia are affecting India''s exports performance," she said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

In a separate reply, she said textiles exports to China have increased to USD 1.56 billion in 2020-21 as against USD 1.13 billion in 2019-20.

"The global pandemic of Covid-19 has adversely affected the textile sector such as restriction on social gathering, migration of labourers, disruption of supply chain, thus affecting all the stakeholders from farmers to traders/exporters in the value chain. However, the situation improved with time and production and exports looked up," she said.

Jardosh also said that during cotton season 2020-21 (up to July 23, 2021), the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has procured seed cotton equivalent to around 91.893 lakh bales under MSP operations.

In another reply, the minister said due to Covid-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown imposed by the various state governments, the production activities in all National Textile Corporation (NTC) Limited mill units including Minerva mill units were put on hold from March 25, 2020.

"During this period, the employees were paid salary regularly as per their status by NTC out of its cash reserve. After lifting up of the lockdown andas per availability of raw material, NTC restored operation of 14 mill unitsfrom January 2021 onwards," she said.

However, the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic again led to closure of all NTC mill operations in April 2021 and now NTC has restored operations in some of its mills in July 2021 as per raw material availability, she added.

Source: outlookindia.com– July 30, 2021

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Govt says more than 22,000 firms misused export incentives in 3 years

The government has found more than 22,000 firms guilty of misusing export incentives and wrongly claiming benefits in the last three years, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel told Parliament.

Defaulters have been placed in the Denied Entity List (DEL), which denies them further benefits under such schemes, he said responding to a question in the Lok Sabha on July 28.

"Action against misuse of export schemes and concessions is a continuous process. Whenever such misuse is detected the firms are placed in the DEL and adjudication proceedings initiated. During the last three financial years, 22,099 firms have been placed in DEL and penalties were imposed on 2,922 firms after adjudication," Patel said.

Export Promotion

The government's export-promotion schemes provide customs duty exemption on import of capital goods, raw material, components and consumables for manufacturing goods for exports and compensate exporters for various disadvantages they face.

Beneficiaries have to abide by terms and conditions of these schemes, which the government monitors and takes action against defaulters.
These actions range from suspension, cancellation of the authorization, black listing the defaulter from availing any export promotion scheme to imposition of fiscal penalty, cancellation or suspension of importer and exporter code number and initiating criminal proceedings.

Such penal provisions are contained in the Foreign Trade Policy/ Hand Book of Procedures, Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules 1993.

Action against misuse of export schemes and concessions is a continuous process. Whenever such misuse is detected the firms are placed in Denied Entity List (DEL) and adjudication proceedings initiated. Investigations into such misuse are concluded within a reasonable time.

Exporters' View

Exporters however say the government action is often unilateral and heavy handed.. "Things on the ground have remained very different than what is portrayed. The government and custom agencies use these powers to threaten or coerce exporters to toe their line. Rank unprofessional behavior from government officers has remained the norm for a long time now," a senior functionary of industry body CII said.

A leather exporter from Agra, who sells his products through a distributor registered to the Mumbai port says that any mistake in documentation is often not considered later on despite repeated attempts to get it corrected. Micro and small scale exporters find it tougher to negotiate the hurdles of bureaucracy and often falter in filing all paperwork.

This year, model guidelines to ensure timely completion of adjudication proceedings were issued to Regional Authorities of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on 27 January.

"Further, the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) has issued an Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) under which the DGFT, CEIB, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) & other investigative agencies share information to investigate fiscal offences which includes misuse of export schemes and concessions," the Commerce Department has said.

The Federation of Indian Exports Organization (FIEO) feels that misuse of scheme benefits remains a major challenge. "Exporters have to wait for an excruciatingly long time to finally receive the benefits of even legitimate export incentives. Often they are cancelled using various pretexts. Under such a circumstance, the proclivity towards gaming the system has become stronger," a senior functionary of FIEO said.

Source: moneycontrol.com– July 29, 2021

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Cotton Corporation stocks drop down to 9 lakh bales

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has said it has almost exhausted all its existing stocks and is now left with only 9 lakh bales before the start of the next season in October, due to the strong demand for cotton in the market.

Pradeep Kumar Agarwal, chairman and managing director of CCI, said the corporation had an opening stock of 115 lakh bales of cotton at the start of the season in October 2020 and had procured 92 lakh bales since then.

"International cotton prices and MCX prices have risen by Rs 7,500 and Rs 6,000 a candy, respectively, in the last one-and-a-half months. But CCI has been conservative in increasing prices and has raised prices by Rs 2,200 to Rs 2,500 a candy for the same period, except for one to two varieties, where it is higher," he said.

In the last one month, 40% of the cotton sold by CCI has been purchasedby textile mills directly.

Source: financialexpress.com– July 31, 2021

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New e-comm policy to address e-marketplaces' non-compliance: Govt to Parliament

The government informed Parliament on Friday that the new e-Commerce policy seeks to address non-compliance by marketplace e-commerce entities regarding deep discounting, predatory pricing and misuse of market dominance.

"The new e-Commerce policy seeks to address such non-compliance," minister of state for commerce and industry Som Parkash told Rajya Sabha, adding that traders, retailers and industry associations have made complaints that have been forwarded to relevant government agencies for necessary examination and investigation.

He said that the Competition Commission of India is in receipt of certain information where e-Commerce companies are alleged to have entered into anti-competitive agreements or abused their dominant position, and necessary action is being taken.

In a separate reply, he said comments from many stakeholders on draft e-Commerce policy have been received relating to definition of e-Commerce, role of marketplace entities and liabilities of e-Commerce companies, among other related issues

INDIAN FOOTWEAR SIZING

TheDepartment for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has initiated the Development of 'Indian Footwear Sizing system' in consultation with Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, Rajya Sabha was informed.

"The responsibility of its compliance will continue with the Bureau of Indian Standards," Parkash said in a written reply.

The development includes anthropometric survey, statistical analysis and development of an Indian foot sizing system and involves foot bio-mechanics and gait study, materials identification, lasts fabrication, development of design patterns and comfort parameters, wear trials, generation of specification, taking into consideration all the regional variations, variations due to gender, age and health condition towards indigenisation of key products.

TEXTILE COMPETITION

The government told Parliament that high tariffs faced by Indian exporters in key markets such as EU & UK as compared to zero duty access given to competing nations like Bangladesh and Cambodia is affecting India's exports performance.

"Textile industry has been hugely affected due to outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic," Minister of State for textiles Darshana Jardosh told Rajya Sabha

In a separate reply, the minister said that the global pandemic has adversely affected the textile sector due to restriction on social gathering, migration of labourers, disruption of supply chain, thus affecting all the stakeholders from farmers to traders/exporters in the value chain.

"Due to the unorganized and decentralized nature of the textile sector, the data with regards to production capacity lying idle with the agencies spread in rural areas across the country is not available," Jardosh said.

She said imports from both Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have fallen in FY21 is as compared to preceding year, replying to a question whether it has come to the ministry's notice that huge production capacity is lying idle in textile and clothing industry due to sluggish exports, poor domestic demand and growing imports from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Source: economictimes.com – July 30, 2021

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Snippets from UK: Happy Hour in India-Britain Trade with Whisky-Textile Swap Likely

India and UK look to 'bottle up' trade pact: India is reportedly considering a swap of clothes for whisky in the Free Trade Agreement being negotiated with the UK.

Britain has long wanted India to cut its tariff on Scotch whisky from its present 150 per cent. India is the world's third-largest market for Scotch, after France and the US. It imports about 95 million 750ml bottles of Scotch every year.

In return, India is asking for more access to textile and apparel exports to the UK. Whether there is a corresponding hunger for these is far from clear.

Source: news18.com– July 30, 2021

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Government creating enabling conditions for growth of textile industry and handlooms in India through its various schemes/initiatives

The government provides platforms to the agencies/weavers in domesticas well as overseas markets for promotion of marketing of handloom products produced across the country. Also, government creates a conducive environment and provide enabling conditions for textile industry in the country through its various schemes/initiatives.

The following schemes have been implemented by government since 2014 to promote textile industry in the country and globally:

Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL): With effect from 07.03.2019, the Central Government has launched a new scheme viz. Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL) on Export of Garments/Made-ups. The ROSCTL Scheme provides rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies in addition to the Duty Drawback Scheme, through the Scheme on Export of Garments/Made-ups at notified rates and value caps and will remain in force upto 31.01.2020.

The Government decided to continue the RoSCTL (Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies) scheme until such time the RoSCTL scheme is merged with Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme. For this purpose, the Government approved adhoc allocation of funds of Rs.7398 crore for FY 2020-21 for issuance of duty credit scrips under RoSCTL Scheme.

Taking a major step to boost exports, Government decided to extend the benefit of the Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) to all export goods with effect from 1st January, 2021. Government had notified a special one-time additional ad-hoc incentive of upto 1% of FoB value to be provided for exports of apparel and made-ups to offset the difference between RoSCTL and RoSL + MEIS@4%, from 7.3.2019 to 31.12.2019.

Further, in order to boost exports in MMF sector, Government has removed anti-dumping duty on PTA, a key raw material for the manufacture of MMF fibre and yarn. Government had removed anti-dumping duty on acrylic fibre, raw material for yarn and knitwear industry. Assistance is also provided to exporters under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.

Government has enhanced interest equalization rate for pre and post shipment credit for exports done by MSMEs including textiles sector from 3% to 5% w.e.f. 02.11.2018. Benefits of Interest Equalization Scheme has been extended to merchant exporters from 02.01.2019 which was earlier limited to only manufacturer exporters. Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) was in operation from 1.4.2015 till 31.12.2020 for exports made (including textiles products) with an objective to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in exporting goods/ products which were produced/ manufactured in India.

Special Package for Textile and Apparel sector: Rs 6000 crores package was launched in June 2016 to boost employment and export potential in the apparel and made up segments. This package consists of Remission of State Levies for garmenting and made-ups; additional production and employment linked subsidy of 10% under ATUFS for garmenting; assistance for the entire 12% employers' contribution towards EPF; fixed term employment in garmenting, increasing overtime caps; and income tax concessions under section 80JJAA for the garmenting sector.

Amended Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS): The amended Scheme was launched in January 2016 with an outlay of Rs 17822 Crores for technology upgradation of textiles industry with one time capital subsidy for eligible machinery. The scheme has been designed to mobilize new investment of about Rs 95 000 cr and employment for 35 lakh persons by the year 2022.

SAMARTH- With a view to address the skilled manpower requirement across textile sector, Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS) is implemented. The scheme has been extended till March, 2024.

PowerTex India: A comprehensive scheme for development of Powerloom sector has been launched w.e.f 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 and extended upto March 2021 with components like Insitu-upgradation of plain Powerlooms, Group Work Shed Scheme, Yarn Bank Scheme, Common Facility Centre (CFC), Solar Energy Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme, etc.

Handloom sector: Government is implementing following schemes since 2014-15 onwards under which financial assistance is provided for raw materials, purchase of looms and accessories, design innovation, product diversification, infrastructure development, skill upgradation, lighting units, marketing of handloom products in domestic as well as **overseas markets** and loan at concessional rates: -

- National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)
- Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)
- Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS)

Click here for more details

Source: pib.gov.in– July 30, 2021

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Fresh Skilling, Upskilling and Reskilling of Workers

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has formulated the special programme for the fresh skilling and upskilling of the reverse migrant workers including labourers impacted from COVID-19 under its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

This special programme for the fresh skilling and upskilling of reverse migrant workers including labourers under PMKVY has covered 116 districts of 6 States namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh selected under Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (GKRA) of Ministry of Rural Development. PMKVY has two components namely Short Tern Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). As on 10.07.2021, 70,823 migrants have been trained / oriented (32,789 in short term training (STT) + 38,034 in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)).

Under the third phase of PMKVY i.e. PMKVY 3.0, a pilot On-line/Digital (Blended) Mode of training under STT-PMKVY3.0 has been launched. Blended Learning (Training) through digital skills is crucial in the post COVID era to ensure skilling for youth and also to address the requirements of industrial revolution 4.0.

This pilot On-line/Digital (Blended) Mode of training has been launched for 15 batches and 50% of the theory hours can be completed via online mode.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry has promoted online skilling through eSkill India portal during the pandemic induced lockdown.

This e-learning aggregator portal offers online skill training on a variety of sectors and modules covering sectors namely; Information Technology, Electronics, Retail, Construction, Automotive, Plumbing, Healthcare, Media, telecom etc. Over 1200 e-courses including e-commerce have been catalogued in eSkill India and most of these courses are free. The courses spread across sectors, languages and domains. The enrolment of candidates for various e-courses in eSkill India Portal is around 15 lakhs. Under PMKVY 3.0, focus has been given for skilling on digital technology and Industry 4.0. The Sector Skill Councils have also created job roles on new and emerging digital technologies and industry 4.0 skills like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT).

Similarly, in the field of long-term training, the Directorate General of Training (DGT) under MSDE has launched Bharat Skill Portal covering 29 popular courses, e-learning video content for 71 courses and question bank for all the 137 trades under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS)for it is, benefitting 9.38 lakhs trainees.

Further, on the occasion of World Youth Skill Day (15th Jul 2021), blended learning was launched in respect of six courses under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) for long-term training through the Industrial Training Institute (ITI). The six courses are namely those for electrician, fitter welder, computer operator & programming assistant, cosmetology, and diesel mechanic.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

Source: pib.gov.in– July 30, 2021

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806.73 Crore released under North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme

Under North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), 38 Sericulture projects are being implemented in the identified potential districts of all North Eastern States under four broad categories viz., Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP), Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project (IBSDP), Eri Spun Silk Mills (ESSM) and Development of Sericulture in Aspirational Districts (AD) with a total projects cost of Rs.1,107.90 crore, of which Government of India's share is Rs.956.01 crore. The broad category-wise status of projects implemented under NERTPS in NE states is as detailed below:

Funds of Rs.68.26 Crore have been allocated during last three years under NERTPS scheme for silk sector in Assam state.

The funds have been allocated under NERTPS scheme based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project and its approval by Project Approval and Monitoring Committee (PAMC) subject to compliance of GFR rules and scheme guidelines.

S.No.	Particulars	No. of Projects	GoI share status (Rs. Cr.)		
			Allocated	**Released**	**Utilized**
1	Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP)	20	566.53	503.46	440.30
2	Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project (IBSDP)	10	258.74	230.86	198.60
3	Eri Spun Silk Mills	3	57.28	19.55	0
4	Aspirational Districts (AD)	5	73.47	52.86	39.45
	Total	**38**	**956.01**	**806.73**	**678.35**

This information was given in a written reply by the Minister of State for Textiles Smt. DarshanaJardosh in Lok Sabha today.

Source: pib.gov.in– July 30, 2021

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Exports poised to see major growth in FY22: India Ratings

India Ratings & Research on Thursday said that led by strong momentum, rising import demand across India's major export destinations and favourable global trade outlook, India's exports are poised to see major growth in FY22. It said that North America is set to see major import growth of 11.4% and Europe of 8.4% in 2021.

“A glance at the FY21 data suggests that some of the major export destinations for India’s top 10 major commodities are also the regions which are expected to witness strong import growth in 2021,” the ratings agency said.

It said that India’s exports, which have been languishing for quite some time, can take advantage of the favourable trade growth outlook of 2021 and consolidate its position further than what has been witnessed in the first quarter of FY22.

In terms of annual growth, India’s exports grew 60.29%, 195.72%, 69.35% and 48.35% in the months of March, April, May and June 2021, respectively.

However, this was largely due to an extremely low base effect whereby annual growth calculations got skewed as India's exports in the same months of the previous year were extremely low due to the pandemic.

“No doubt, the growth numbers reflect the depth of the COVID-19 shock last year but we believe they also show the strength of the current recovery, adequately captured by the monthly export number,” India Ratings said, adding that the exports momentum began in March 2021, which witnessed the highest ever exports in a single month, clocking $34.45 billion. It added that India’s average monthly exports in FY20 were $26.14 billion, nearly the same as in FY14.

The average monthly exports during the first quarter of FY22 jumped to $31.80 billion.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com– July 29, 2021

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Forex reserves down by $1.581 billion to $611.149 billion

The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 1.581 billion to stand at USD 611.149 billion for the week ended July 23, RBI data showed on Friday.

The reserves had reached a lifetime high of USD 612.730 billion after rising by USD 835 million in the previous week ended July 16, 2021.

In the reporting week, the drop in the reserves was mainly due to a fall in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, as per weekly data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

FCAs declined by USD 1.12 billion to USD 567.628 billion.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were down by USD 449 million to USD 36.884 billion in the reporting week.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dipped by USD 3 million at USD 1.546 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF also declined by USD 9 million to USD 5.091 billion in the reporting week, as per the data.

Source: financialexpress.com– July 30, 2021

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Steps taken by the government to increase skill development trainers in various sectors

Under short-term skilling eco-system, trainers are being trained through Training of Trainers (ToT) programme, which is being conducted by Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and facilitated through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), all the trainers for short-term training have to be ToT certified. As on 19.07.2021, 58,112 trainers under 37 sectors have been ToT certified across the country.

NSDC under the aegis of Ministry is implementing training program for the professional development of “Skill Trainers” in the short-term skill eco-system through Sector Skill Councils (SSCs). In order to further enhance the ToT programme, Ministry has provisioned for the direct funding under third phase of PMKVY to create a pool of certified trainers.

Also, Takshashila, a dedicated technology platform has been developed to support the trainer development framework such as Trainer registration, demand aggregation, batch-life cycle and certification. Further, a dedicated capacity of ‘Trainer-Assessor Academies’ is being established which are responsible for the implementation of training of trainers program along with Continuous Professional Development programs.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

Source: pib.gov.in– July 30, 2021

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Demand for warehouse roles increases 20-25% in December 2020-July 2021 period

Pandemic and its aftermath have served to transform the logistics sector from a supporting service sector into an essential one

In the logistics sector, demand for warehouse roles (delivery executives, movers, pickers, packers and loaders) increased by 20 per cent to 25 per cent in December 2020-July 2021 period as compared to corresponding period last year, and is expected to further increase, said Ajoy Thomas, Business Head (Retail, E-Commerce, Logistics & Transportation), TeamLease Services, an HR company. This is a positive sign for the blue-collar workforce and the gig workforce, who are majorly deployed in these roles, he told BusinessLine.

On what is driving the demand for such jobs, Thomas said that India has emerged as one of the biggest countries for gig and platform workers as e-commerce platforms created huge job opportunities even in the midst of the pandemic and continue to do so even now. Now, with the second wave lock down easing out, hiring continues to further increase for such segments.

Pandemic's impact

The pandemic and its aftermath have served to transform the logistics sector from a supporting service sector into an essential one. Higher penetration and more acceptance for online shopping across metro cities, tier II locations and towns are expected to continue pushing the growth.

The warehousing market in India was valued at ₹1,05,000 crore in 2020. It is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 15 per cent between 2021 and 2025 to reach a value of ₹2,02,900 crore by 2025. The usage of the warehousing system in India has gained significant prominence over the past few years. In India, the warehousing and cold storage space occupancy increased by 30 per cent, he said.

"We are likely to see an even bigger increase in sales than predicted by these pre-Covid-19 estimates, as ecommerce sales have seen massive growth and transformation since early 2020. The pandemic has had an immediate impact on buyer behaviour that has accelerated the digital transformation for many businesses," he said.

Aside from a rapid shift to online buying behaviour, Covid-19 has also increased the consumption of mobile and digital media. As people have turned to devices to fill the social gap, the consumer demand for personalised shopping experiences have increased.

Consumer expectations for value have translated into many of the ecommerce new trends we are seeing in 2021, he said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– July 30, 2021

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Maharashtra's industrial node attracts investment of over ₹6,500 crore

The Shendra-Bidkin Industrial Area (SBIA) in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra is set to change the economic landscape of the drought-prone region. SBIA, one of the industrial nodes on Delhi - Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) has attracted investment of over ₹6,500 crore and is likely to create 7.5 lakh employment opportunities.

DMIC

DMIC is one of the most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to develop new industrial cities as Smart Cities and converging next-generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.

The two nodes in Maharashtra on DMIC include Shendra Bidkin Industrial Area and Dighi Port Industrial Area. The Shendra industrial area is already operational. The Bidkin and Dighi Port Industrial areas are still under construction.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's information given to the Lok Sabha this week, the Maharashtra Government has transferred the entire 8.39 sq km of land to the Special Purpose Vehicle named Aurangabad Industrial Township Limited in Shendra. The matching equity of ₹602.80 crore has been released by the Centre through National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).

Major trunk infrastructure works are completed with 93 plots allotted including allotment of 100 acres to major investors like a South Korean company Hyosung. An investment of over ₹6,500 crore has been attracted in this area, the Ministry informed the Lok Sabha.

Large-scale industrial cluster for high growth industries with wide-ranging infrastructure services, convenient access and provisions to handle environmental waste with minimum impacts is coming up in these two areas.

In Bidkin Industrial Area out of a total 32 sq. km, the Maharashtra government has transferred 28.8 sq. km and matching equity of ₹2,397.20 crore has been released by the Centre. Trunk infrastructure works here are nearing completion.

As per development plan, direct-indirect employment generation potential for SBIA is approximately 7.5 lakh.

Dighi Industrial Area

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Government has confirmed the availability of 5,935 acres of land for Dighi Industrial Area (Raigad district). Of this 3,622 acres is in possession of the State government. Detailed master planning and preliminary engineering for the land parcels have been initiated. As per the development plan, employment generation potential for Dighi Industrial Area is approximately 3.2 lakh.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– July 30, 2021

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TS to offer insurance cover for weavers

CM will launch Nethanna Bima soon: KTR

Telangana government will come with an insurance cover for weavers, on the lines of Rythu Bima for farmers.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will soon launch Nethanna Bima, the insurance scheme for weavers, Industries and IT Minister K. T. Rama Rao said in Sircilla on Friday. He said this while asserting that the Telangana government accorded top priority to welfare of weavers community in the State.

He was speaking after laying foundation of Gokaldas Images' apparel factory at Sircilla Apparel Park. The ready-made garment firm was setting up a 500-machine stitching unit to manufacture inner garments for men and women. In April, it had entered into an agreement with Telangana government, the Minister's office said in a release.

The Sircilla facility would be the first unit of Gokaldas Images in Telangana and provide employment to over 1,000 local persons, majority of them women, the Minister said.

On the Sircilla Apparel Park, Mr. Rao said it was being developed to international standards and would create over 10,000 employment opportunities in the region, of which majority will be for women. The Park is the State government's special initiative to introduce modern best practices to the industry and would benchmarked to export standards.

This would provide employment to women and enable them to earn higher incomes and also provide social security. The project would encourage the Sircilla Textile Cluster to generate higher value addition through finished garments for exports and create more jobs for locals, the release said.

Gokaldas Images MD Sumir Hinduja, Handlooms and Textiles Director Shailaja Ramaiyer and TSIIC vice chairman and MD E.V.Narsimha Reddy participated in the foundation-laying programme.

Source: thehindu.com– July 30, 2021

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10,000 weavers will get employment in Sircilla Apparel Park: KTR

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K T Rama Rao on Friday said about 10,000 weavers will get employment in Sircilla Apparel Park in the next few years, and 80 per cent of the jobs would be filled with women. “They will easily earn salaries of Rs 10,000 to 12,000 per month,” he said..

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for Gokaldas Images garments manufacturing unit at the Apparel Park near Peddur in Sircilla, the Minister said the setting up of the Apparel Park in Sircilla was the dream of local weavers. Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister late YS Rajashekhara Reddy promised to establish a park in 2005, but the dream project came through only under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, he said.

Stating that Gokaldas Images would start functioning in the next six months, the Minister assured that steps would be taken to start the remaining industries to be established in 60 acres land in the coming two to three years. Gokaldas will produce clothes of international standards and also provide facilities to employees on par with international standards. Besides babycare center, medical facilities would also be provided to workers, Rama Rao said.

Pointing out that Telangana was the highest cotton producing State in the country, he said the best quality cotton is also produced in Telangana and not in Punjab or Maharashtra. “This has been announced by the South Indian Mills Association,” he said.

Subsequently, with the objective of providing the best price to farmers as well as employment to jobless youth, the State government came up with a new Telangana Textile and Apparel Policy and approached leading textile industries in the country to set up their units in the State. To hep Sircilla weavers and bail them out of financial crisis, a number of programmes were taken up by the Chief Minister after State formation, he said.

Now, the community people are able to earn Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 per month since they have been given the orders for Bathukamma sarees and Rajiv Vidhya Mission uniforms. To develop weavers as owners, the government has come up with ‘Worker to Owner” scheme and is constructing 400 sheds in Apparel Park. Besides taking up a programme to modernise powerlooms in a big way, 50 per cent subsidy on power bills was also provided to weaver, the Minister said.

Pointing out that the Central government had announced in Parliament that Telangana had the least number of farmers' suicides, he said earlier, about 8 weavers used to commit suicide every week. The problem was overcome by introducing different types of welfare schemes for them, he said.

Referring to the Chief Minister's recent announcement to provide insurance facility to weavers under Chenetha Bima scheme, the Minister assured to take steps to implement the scheme as early as possible.

Rama Rao instructed collector D Krishna Bhaskar to enroll the names of women who were interested in undergoing training to work in Gokaldas Images.

Yarn depot in Sircilla: KTR

Rajanna-Sircilla: Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao on Friday said the State government will initiate steps to establish a yarn depot in Sircilla after discussing the issue with owners of spinning mills in the cotton industry. "This will be a permanent solution to the problems faced by weavers," he said. Stating that the welfare of weavers was one of the major objectives of the State government, the Minister said weavers in the State were doing quality work and assured them remunerative prices for their work.

Rama Rao, along with Handlooms and Textiles Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyer, conducted a review meeting with officials and owners of looms to discuss weavers problems in Sircilla Collectorate on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister observed that production of quality Bathukamma sarees was being carried out within the time frame. So far, Rs 2,000 worth of orders were given to Sircilla weavers, Rama Rao said, adding that the textile industry had suffered due to the Covid pandemic last year.

The weavers informed the Minister that they were facing difficulties to run looms as several designs were introduced in the manufacture of Bathukamma saree this time around. Dabi and Jacquard systems were also introduced. They requested the Minister to enhance the price of a metre cloth to Rs 1.50. They would get respite if the subsidy on yarn was enhanced. Positively responding to their requests, Rama Rao tried to solve their problems and instructed officials to send cloth produced in Sircilla to private industries for quality checking instead of delaying and completing the processes early.

The Minister wanted the owners of the cotton industry to come forward to introduce modern cotton looms developed by a Bengaluru-based company. Advising looms owners to solve problems in the textile park, Rama Rao informed them to supply power through the solar system.

Source: telanganatoday.com– July 30, 2021

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