

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1300
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
MAKING TEXTILE INDUSTRY COMPETITIVE
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to make the textile industry competitive before the phasing out of the Multi-Fibre Agreement in 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the kind of assistance / incentives provided by the Government to the handloom/handicraft sectors in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES

(SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement referred to in reply to paras (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1300 for 03-03-2000

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir, the Government has already initiated schemes like Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) to facilitate the industry to modernise and upgrade itself so as to be more competitive. Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy Notifications also have Manufacturer's Exporters Entitlement and New Investors' Entitlement Systems to encourage new investment in textile sector.

(c) The Handloom/Handicraft sectors are mainly not affected by Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA).The Government has initiated a number of schemes in Handloom sector which include Project Package, Workshed-cum-Housing, Thrift Fund, Health Package, Group Insurance, Development of Exportable products and their Marketing, organisation of National Handloom Expos, Participation in Fairs, Melas and Haats etc.

As far as Handicraft sector is concerned, incentive in the form of TA/DA is provided to master craft persons for their participation in various National Level Melas/Expos. Master craft persons unable to work due to old age and infirmity are provided pension. As a token of recognition of their craft skill, outstanding craftsmen and weavers are conferred National Awards. The award includes cash prize of Rs. 25,000/-, a Tamarapatra and an Angavastram. Moreover, the craftpersons from North-East Region are provided 100% reimbursement and free transportation for mounting exhibitions outside North-East Region.