CHAPTER XIII

TEXTILES RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS (TRAs) & THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE

COTTON TEXTILES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (TRAs)

There are eight Textiles Research Associations (TRAs) receiving financial support from the Ministry of Textiles, of these the following are the Cotton Textile Research Associations (CTRAs):-

(1) Ahmedabad Textiles Industry's Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad.

(2) Bombay Textiles Research Association (BTRA), Mumbai.

(3) South India Textiles Research Association (SITRA), Coimbatore.

(4) Northern India Textiles Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad.

Like other TRAs these TRAs are textiles industry promoted private bodies, set up and promoted by the textiles industry of the respective region to carry-out research and provide various services, including consultancy, testing, training and research, etc. Their main sources of earnings include government grants, subscriptions from member-mills, fees from the services, etc. These have renowned industrialists as their elected Chairman, and have full functional autonomy.

ATIRA

Performance

- ATIRA worked on about 20 R&D projects, of which 7 have been completed.
- ATIRA undertook sample testing activity and training programmes.
- ATIRA provided need based consultancy to the mills.
- ATIRA tested nearly 18000 samples of cotton for various parameters.
- The powerlooms sector is in the process of modernization. The Government of Gujarat is keen to provide skill upgradation and training to the workers, jobbers and owners of the powerlooms sector and more than 4500 persons have been covered under this programme during the year. Man-power selection and training is done by ATIRA.
- ATIRA is preparing to launch a Garment manufacturing training centre. The centre will focus on training of trainers, entrepreneurs, maintenance engineers, managers, supervisors and operators for various activities of Garment manufacturing.
- Another emerging area is the Technical Textiles. There is huge market for technical textiles in India and abroad. ATIRA has gained some experience of studying technical textiles used by defence services. It is initiating activities in Technical Textiles in a major way.

Activities:

- ATIRA prepared 38 reports.
- 27,791 different samples were tested at ATIRA, Ahmedabad and 752 at ATIRA Regional Centre, Indore.

- ATIRA calibration laboratory took up 627 calibration assignments, covering 2925 instruments from textiles and other industries.
- For ATIRA training programmes, 1156 mills sponsored their staff, and 3079 trainees participated.
- ATIRA published five books.
- ATIRA presented eight papers.
- Three papers were presented at ATIRA sponsored conferences and five papers at conference organized by other agencies
- Nine papers were published in Scientific & Technical Journals by ATIRA staff.
- ATIRA conducted eleven lectures.

BTRA

Performance

During 2005-2006, research and development activities at BTRA were undertaken to develop cost effective techniques, product innovation, improve product (yarn/fabric) quality, ensure utilities (energy and water) conservation, improve productivity and machine maintenance. Some of these are:-

- BTRA received a patent for its development on 'Thin Kerosene Vapour Recovery for Textile Printing'
- BTRA transferred the technology of fabricating 'BTRA Modified Handlooms for Disabled Persons' to M/s. Varadayini Engineering Works, Solapur.
- One technical report on sponsored project was submitted to the concerned sponsoring agency. BTRA completed two sponsored projects and four in-house projects. The number of on-going sponsored projects is six out of which two projects are newly initiated during the period under review.

BTRA completed the following Sponsored Projects:

- 'Anti-fungal finishing of selective cotton textiles using commercially available finishes'.
- 'Educating and reskilling of decentralised powerlooms owners / jobbers / workers in better lubricant handling technique and developing a centralised lubrication system suitable for powerloom'.

On-going Sponsored Projects

- 'Development of newer types of textile fabrics having anti-flammable, anti-bacterial and electrical conducting properties'.
- 'Design and Development of Reeling cum Twisting and Spinning Machines for Non-mulberry Silk'.

In-house projects

- ❏ BTRA has brought out the following four publications, which were well received by the industry.
- ❏ Global Challenge vis-à-vis Performance levels of Modern Cotton Spinning Mills
- ❏ Global Challenge vis-à-vis Performance levels of Modern Blended Yarn Spinning Mills
- ❏ Quality and Operational Benchmarks for Modern Spinning Mills
- ❏ Product Catalogue on Technical Textiles

- BTRA has studied the effect of enzyme and silicone finishing treatments on physical properties of

jute/cellulose blended textiles such as hairiness and stiffness.

- In the field of Non-wovens, BTRA has processed many non-woven samples at its pilot plant from various fibre types such as viscose, polyester, silk, jute, polypropylene, co-polymer, etc.
- In the field of Microbiology / Biotechnology, BTRA undertook a few special studies viz., (i) imparting permanent mosquito repellent finish on textiles for an international R & D unit, (ii) investigations on medical textiles such as Bacterial Filtration Efficiency (BEF), Blood Penetration Test & Cytotoxicity / Irritability / Toxicity study and (iii) feasibility studies on the use of ozone as a sterilizing agent (as a replacement for ethylene oxide treatment).

Other important activities

- BTRA undertook extensive liaison and consultancy services to solve problems of quality, maintenance, productivity, water / energy conservation, etc. at various levels. Also special studies [such as techno-economic viability, valuation of fixed assets, vetting out revival proposals, equipment verification, control panel valuation, etc.] for the mills were undertaken.
- ISO-9000 group of BTRA assisted nine units for ISO 9000 (2000) revision and certification. It has helped three testing laboratories for ISO 17025 accreditation. It has also conducted audits on behalf of certifying bodies. It rendered help for NABL certification for BTRA Test Laboratories (BTL). Around 25 Audio-Video CDs on 'Computer based training modules for TQM in the textile industry' are sold.
- BTRA conducted 17 training programmes/seminars covering various subjects such as ISO-9000, supervisory training in spinning, check points in warping and sizing, training to sizing machine tenters, four-points fabric inspection system, maintenance of electronic instruments / transducers / sensors, testing methods of electronic components, operation of centralised lubrication system on looms, operational and maintenance aspects of BTRA modified handlooms suitable for operation by disabled persons and basic courses [on textile processes / fabric defects / fabric inspection, chemical processing & machinery for textiles and bleaching, dyeing and finishing of cotton yarn].
- BTRA participated in the Elitex 2005 Exhibition on Information Technology, held at India Habitat Center, New Delhi from April 25-26, 2005. BTRA developed IT Data System for Roving/ Gill Boxes was displayed at this exhibition.

Performance of SITRA

SITRA was involved in 29 Research Projects and 245 Consultancy Studies in the areas of Product Development, Process Control, Chemical Processing, Machinery Development, Energy Conservation, Instrumentation and Finance and Productivity. In the area of Human Resources Development, 11 different training programmes were organised benefiting 311 managerial and technical mill personnel; about 1,737 workers participated in labour training programmes conducted at shop floor level at their own mills. Under international training programmes, 47 trainees from 23 different developing countries attended 4 different courses.

SITRA's NABL accredited laboratories have tested close to 70,000 samples

(fibre, yarn or fabric) either for physical and chemical analysis. During the year, SITRA has also started a Sample Collection Centre at Tirupur for reaching out a larger segment that requires testing, on betterment of the testing activity.

SITRA's Powerloom Service Centres have offered a wide range of services, including 963 technical consultations, developed around 206 new designs and conducted 55 training programmes to around 650 persons. More than 27,000 yarn and cloth samples were tested and close to 2,000 liaison visits were made.

During the year, 17 publications including 8 Research reports and 3 "Trends" were brought out. SITRA Scientists have published 22 technical papers in reputed scientific journals.

SITRA Scientists were recipients of 3 awards during the year - 1) Triguna Charan Sen Award 2) M/s.Bry-Air (Asia) Pvt. Ltd.,'s Best Jury Award and 3) Shri Kanaiyalal Mothilal Award for best paper at Joint Technological Conference.

SITRA licensed its development - "SITRA-PCRA Climo Control" to a manufacturer for commercial manufacture.

Performance of NITRA

Research and Development

- NITRA developed a technique for ultra low liquor dyeing of acrylic yarn using cationic dyes. The technique reduces consumption of dyes, chemicals and water used and completed the dyeing in about a minute's time.
- NITRA is working on fabrics made from milkweed fibers blended with cotton, viscose and polyester, as a replacement to cotswool fabrics.
- NITRA successfully developed advanced oxidation techniques for bleaching of cotton and discharge printing of garments using ozone.
- NITRA is developing technical yarns for diversified uses such as extreme climates, tear and bullet proof.

Machine/Instrument & Product Development

- NITRA's 'Smoke Visibility Tester' as per the international standards is approved by RDSO and conducting tests for industries on RDSO recommendation. The apparatus is well accepted by the industry.
- NITRA developed core yarn attachment whose cost is 50% of the attachments imported from Europe to produce soft & hard-core yarns at a competitive price. NITRA also developed a wrap reel to determine the count of elastane core yarns.
- NITRA developed combined sizing & sectional warping machine and was successfully installed at Tanda, one of the powerlooms clusters in Uttar Pradesh. The purpose of developing this machine is to help small-scale powerlooms weavers to produce high priced yarn dyed cotton-dressing materials.
- NITRA developed ultra low liquor Hank Dyeing Machine, to reduce effluent discharge during cotton & acrylic hank yarn dyeing.
- NITRA has developed fiber fiction tester to predict the performance of dyed fibers during spinning operations. It's an in-house project.

Patents

NITRA has received a patent for its Indigo Dying Machine. In addition, an intimation of grant has been received for its development of a process to obtain clear effluent from textiles effluent.

International Consultancy

(i) Set Up a Textile & Garment Industry Support Institute at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(ii) Training of 959 Sewing Machine Operators and 61 Sewing Machine Trainers at Addis Ababa and Almeda, Ethiopia.

Other Consultancy

NITRA had offered various customized consultancy packages for its clients in the areas of Product Development, Product Diversification, Cost Reduction, Quality Improvement, ISO-9000 Quality Management System, ISO-9001: 2000 training & implementation, Machine Design & Development, Manpower Planning, Process House Study, Techno-economic Viability Study, Total Quality Management, Maintenance Management, Maintenance Audit and a lot more. NITRA has provided consultancy to around 50 units during the last one year.

Manpower Training for Garment Industry

NITRA is synonymous with developing quality manpower for the garment sector and offers 11 industry oriented techno-management programs in most happening areas such as garment designing, garment manufacturing, merchandising, quality assurance, machine maintenance, and machine operation. The programs are full-time and Distance Learning Programme.

NITRA-RAMSON Tie-Up

Recognizing the usefulness of the programs conducted by NITRA, RAMSONS, an industry major in garment finishing machine manufacturing, has joined hands with NITRA to share its technical expertise with NITRA students by offering an exclusive and first of its kind program on Garment Dyeing, Dry cleaning & Finishing Technology for introducing from August 2006.

Coordination Council of TRAs

The Coordination Council for the Textile Research Associations, under the chairmanship of Secretary (Textiles), coordinates the activities of all the Textile Research Associations (TRAs). The Councils assess the on-going programmes of research associations, identify programmes, priorities. or. It also conduct periodical evaluation of the work carried out in cooperative research; and consider the systemizing research programmes and funding arrangements so that funding is in conformity with plan priorities, and all other matters connected with the effective functioning of these Research Associations.

THE SYNTHETIC AND ART SILK MILLS' RESEARCH ASSOCIATION SASMIRA, MUMBAI

The Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai is principally engaged in applied research to meet the changing needs of the man-made textiles industry. SASMIRA provides testing and technical consultancy, human resource development services (Technical Education & Training), instrumentation, etc. It has a well equipped library and a pilot plant for industrial trials and developments. SASMIRA is engaged in following activities:-

- ***Technical Textiles:*** Under a sponsored project of Ministry of Textiles, SASMIRA has successfully developed both woven and non-woven geo-textiles for pavement overlay application. Reinforcing the road with pavement overlay to restrict cracks and pot-holes is relatively new in the Indian context. The developed materials are under field trial during the year.

SASMIRA's laboratory is equipped with selected testing facilities for technical textiles materials.

- ***Testing services:*** SASMIRA's testing services are accredited by the National Accreditation Board to the Testing and Calibration Laboratory (NABL). Testing is as per ISO/IEC 17025 norms.

- ***Human Resource Development (HRD) (Education/Studies):*** SASMIRA imparts training through various diploma and certificate courses. During the year many new professional courses were introduced which includes fashion technology, merchandising, export import management, etc.

For the first time SASMIRA has introduced course on embroidery technology in collaboration with industry.

The institute also runs various postgraduate diploma level courses. SASMIRA laboratories are recognised by the Mumbai University for PhD programmes in the field of Textiles chemistry.

The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India also seeks services of SASMIRA to formulate futuristic national policies for the country.

Consultancy: The Ministry of Textiles assigned the study "External Evaluation of Powerloom Sector schemes" to SASMIRA. The study entails evaluation of schemes for Modernization and strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres (PSC), Computer Aided Design (CAD) centres and Group Insurance schemes.

The objectives of the study were to evaluate the impact of these schemes on the industry, assessment of achievements, suggestions and measures for improvement and future course of actions.

- ***Vision 2010:*** The dismantling of quota system in post World Trade Organisation (WTO) era has put Indian textiles and clothing industry in a challenging position. SASMIRA plans to reorient its activities to align with international standards. Accordingly a road-map has been prepared to make SASMIRA self sustaining by 2010 by mobilizing various resources and re-orienting various cources, strengthening R&D, and testing infrastructure, introducing new education programme, etc.

- ***Seminars and Conferences:*** SASMIRA and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) jointly organised a seminar on "Technical Textiles 2006" on September 28, 2006 at Textiles Committee Auditorium in Mumbai.

- ***Powerloom Service Centres:*** SASMIRA is running two Powerloom Service Centres at Bhiwandi. These render various services like testing, technical services, consultancy, etc. and help in implementing various schemes like Technology Up-gradation Funds (TUFs), Group insurance, Jeevan Bima Yojana (JBY), etc.

The centres also contribute to human resource development (HRD) a one-year certificate course on weaving. Few more training courses like 'on-the-job training for weavers / jobbers / supervisors', etc. have been introduced.

MAN-MADE TEXTILES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (MANTRA), SURAT

The Man-Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA), Surat is a Textile Research Association serving the man-

made textile industry and is registered under the Societies Act of Gujarat.

The Association carries out research and development and to render other consultancy services to the local, textile weaving, texturing and processing industry on various aspects of the textiles technology with a view to improving the quality of fabrics, reducing cost and bringing about better utilization of raw materials. The projects undertaken were of considerable importance and the studies made by the Association have substantially helped to improve the quality and productivity of the textile industry.

MANTRA is carrying out Research & Development (R&D) work on the following sponsored projects:-

i) Development of canvas fabrics from high tenacity air-textured synthetic filament yarns (sanctioned in 2005 by Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India).

ii) To phase out Carbon Tetra Chloride (CTC) from the decentralized man made textile processing sector (sanctioned in 2006 by Government of Gujarat).

During 2006-07, till October 2006, about 359 samples from the industry and 400 parameters of Environment Audit were tested in the Eco laboratory of MANTRA. 650 samples from the industry and about 700 environment parameters will be tested during 2006-07.

MANTRA continued to perform well as Environmental Auditor for Schedule-I industries. For the year 2006 (January to December), MANTRA is conducting Environmental audit of 40 units. It is expected that income to the extent of Rs.17.62 lakhs will be achieved during the year 2006 (January to December). For the year 2007 (January to December), a target of 60 units will be achieved. In the Analytical Instruments Laboratory, which has a number of sophisticated instruments, about 80 samples were tested till October, 2006, majority of which included colour assessment parameters on Computer Colour Matching (CCM) and a target of about 175 samples will be achieved during financial year 2006-07.

The Physical and Chemical Testing Laboratories continued to perform well in the year 2006-07 also. Till October 31, 2006, the total number of samples tested in these two laboratories were 3,227 (excluding audits), which includes testing of yarns, fabrics, chemicals and certification, etc. It is expected that target of 7,000 samples will be achieved during financial year 2006-07.

During the financial year 2006-07, MANTRA expanded its activities in the field of Energy Conservation. MANTRA is enlisted consultant by Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA). MANTRA is authorised as Energy Auditor by Chief Electrical Inspector, Gujarat to conduct mandatory energy audit of all industrial units having contract demand more than 200 KVA. MANTRA conducted energy audit of 12 textiles units under GEDA's subsidy scheme and also conducted mandatory audit of 10 units till October 31, 2006. Target of 25 units under GEDA subsidy scheme and 20 mandatory units will be achieved during financial year 2006-07.

Two Powerlooms Service Centres (PSCs), one at Pandesara and the other at Sachin, are functioning under the management of MANTRA. Both centres are extending testing and consultancy services to the industries located in their respective clusters. The regular activity of these centres is to give training to the weavers and designers and a total number of 250 weavers and designers, covering 2180 man days, have been trained so far till October 31, 2006. A target of 400 weavers

and designers covering about 4,000 man days will be achieved during financial year 2006-07.

The activities of MANTRA in dissemination of information have been found to be quite useful to the industry. A workshop `Carbon Trading' will be organized in December, 2006. Also a seminar on `Processing in textiles - modern trends' will be organized in February, 2007.

The pilot plant facilities for the production of continuous synthetic filament yarn, available at MANTRA, is unique and one of its kind. Its existing extrusion, draw texturing and air jet texturing facilities are being availed not only by the nearby industry, but also by the industries located in Bangalore, Chennai, etc.

In a new development, a proposal for setting up of training institution for apparel production was prepared by MANTRA and submitted to the Department of Industry & Mines, Government of Gujarat. The same has been approved by the Government of Gujarat and an amount of Rs.1.7575 crores has been sanctioned. Under this, very soon, a training centre for apparel production is being set up at Powerloom Service Centre (PSC) of MANTRA at Sachin, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC). This institute will help generate trained man power for the garment manufacturing units of Sachin. About six courses covering garment manufacturing stages like sewing, pattern making, finishing and packaging, etc., have been designed.

In the wake of globalization of trade, the decentralized textiles industry of South Gujarat will have to face stringent market competition. In order to serve the above industry in a better way, TRA like MANTRA will have to play a supporting and facilitating role. Looking at this, a proposal for establishing a Centre of Excellence at MANTRA has been prepared and submitted to the Department of Industry & Mines, Government of Gujarat, and it is under consideration. The proposed centre will strengthen infrastructural facilities of MANTRA further to serve textile industry of the region.

- MANTRA has worked out some Technical Textiles projects based on woven, non-woven (spun jet) and circular knitting textiles. A proposal based on non-wovens has been submitted to the Government of Gujarat. This involves R&D and quality appraisal, product development (pilot plant), human resource development (HRD) in spun bond and spun lace technology.

WOOL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, THANE

The Wool Research Association (WRA), Thane, was established and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in October 1963. The Wool Research Association is organized under the following five departments:-

(i) Physical Test House

(ii) Chemical Test House

(iii) Textiles Technology Department and Pilot Plant

(iv) Computer Aided Textiles Designing and Colour Research Laboratory

(v) Eco-Testing Laboratory

Activities

(1) Mechanical processing of wool and woollen blends on woollen spinning system.

(2) Processing of jute, wool and synthetic fibres on friction spinning (DREF-II)

(3) Development of elastomeric friction spun and fancy yarn on DREF-II friction spinning machine

(4) Development of Economic Friction Spun Multi-component yarn for high-tech (Industrial Fabric) Textiles

(5) Computer Aided Designing & manufacturing of knitwears

(6) Computer Application in colour matching and quality control, woven printed designs, grading and blending

(7) Carpet designing, weaving and finishing

(8) Natural and synthetic dyeing and finishing of wool and woollen blends

(10) Eco-testing of textiles

(11) Project Proposals, Feasibility reports related to above activities.

A The WRA is implementing the following projects sponsored by Ministry of Textiles:

A.1 Wool/Silk Projects

A.2 R&D on value addition on Deccani wool

A.3 Setting up of a Dyeing & Finishing Centre for Shawl Industry at Kullu

B Projects Completed:

B.1 Pashmina Development Project (2005-2006)

C Industrial Consultancy

D Education & Training Activity

1. The technical services provided by the WRA to the Woollen Industry during 2005-06 includes:

   (i) Testing of physical properties of wool and its blends from fibre to fabric. It rendered its services to its members and non-members from Textiles Industry, Defence, Customs, Railways, State Transports and other authorities.

   (ii) Laboratory dyeing & finishing treatments and chemical testing of wool and blends, enzyme-oriented solutions in eco-friendly processing jointly with the Advance Bio Chem. And Biocon for wool scouring/ bleaching/ dyeing/ finishing/ de-gumming / dyeing of silk, dyeing of natural fibre blends of wool, silk & cotton, etc.

   (iii) Testing of textiles and dyes for eco-friendly parameters viz. formaldehyde, heavy metals, banned aromatic amines, etc. and also undertook research projects of industrial and national importance on these subjects.

   (iv) Carrying out by Textile Designing Department for computer colour matching, which has advance textile designing software for design creations based on modules like jacquard, dobby printing, carpets, embroidery, etc. It also conduced training courses on CAD designing.

2. WRA is developing quality spun yarn on eri silk, wool blends and its products and it has also taken up the project to develop suitable machinery for spinning of eri silk and its blends for cottage industry in collaboration with the Central Silk Board.

3. WRA is associated with the Deccani Wool Project where they have evaluated the fibre characteristic of Chelkere farm wool sample and those around Ranebennur comprising Deccani breed, crossbreed and exotic Rambauillet.

4. The Khadi Village & Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai sanctioned an S&T project titled "Introduction of Indian Crossbreed Fine Wools for Woollen Khadi

Products like Shawls, Lohies" etc to WRA. The aim of the project was to use Indian fine cross breed wool from J&K State for manufacturing of Shawls and Lohies.

5. WRA associated with the Pashmina project which has been sponsored by the UNDP and Government of India, through Central Wool Development Board. WRA is extending technical services.

6. WRA conducted training programmes for (i) Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh. Besides, WRA conduct an orientation programme for students of SVT College of Home sciences (SNDT) University, Mumbai wherein Scientist and Staff members of WRA developed awareness about Textiles Testing Laboratory and National Eco Testing Laboratory.

7. WRA conducted a number of seminars and workshops during the year 2004-05. Industrial visits/ trials were also undertaken. Mr. Tom Drummond, Project Manager, Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Australia, visited WRA on September 12, 2004, to understand the WRA's present R&D projects and Mr. Paul Comyn, Programme Manager, Education & Adoption, AWI visited WRA on January 24, 2005, to understand the status of Wool Education in India & WRA's representation in the same.

TECHNICAL TEXTILES

The technical textiles are textiles materials and products used for their technical performance and functional properties. Unlike conventional textiles used traditionally for clothing or furnishing, technical textiles are used basically on account of their specific physical and functional properties and mostly by other user industries. Technical textiles are used individually or as a component/ part of another product to improve the performance of the product. Technical textiles are also referred to as industrial textiles, functional textiles, performance textiles, engineering textiles, invisible textiles and hi-tech textiles.

The Sub Group on Technical Textiles for the XIth Five Year Plan (2007-12) under the Working Group on Textile and Jute Industry constituted by the Government of India has recommended setting up of six Centres of Excellence in different parts of the country at a proposed plan outlay of Rs. 90.00 crore during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

TEXTILES COMMITTEE

The Textiles Committee, established by the Textiles Committee Act, 1963, f ensures quality of textiles, both for internal market and exports. It promotes quality of textiles, textile exports, research in the technical and economic fields, set standards for textiles and textiles machinery, set up laboratories, collect data, etc. The Committee has its headquarters at Mumbai with 30 Regional Offices, 17 of them have laboratories, including 9 with eco testing facilities.

PERFORMANCE DURING 2005-06

Textile Testing Services: During 2005-06, all the 17 laboratories registered a revenue of Rs.9.39 crores against Rs.6.44 crores in 2004-05. The projected revenue during 2006-07 is estimated at Rs.10.00 crores.

Accreditation of the laboratories: During 2005-06, four more laboratories of Textiles Committee at Ludhiana, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Jaipur were accredited by National Accreditation Board to the Testing and Calibration Laboratory (NABL). Another two laboratories at Guntur and

Kolkata are in the process of accreditation during 2006-07. Thus of 17 labs, 14 labs will accredited by NABL.

Consultancy on laboratory quality management system / setting up of in-house laboratories: Textiles Committee has provided consultancy to 22 laboratories for implementing International Organisation For Standardization (ISO)/ International Electro Technical Committee (IEC) 17025-laboratory management system. The following 5 laboratories have secured accreditation by the National Accreditation Board for testing and calibration:

(a) Ahmedabad Textiles Institute and Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedbad

(b) Network Clothing Company (NCC), Tirupur

(c) Indian Tobacco Company (ITC), Gurgaon

(d) Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Bhadohi

(e) Indian Rubber Manufactures Research Association (IRMRA), Thane

Inter Laboratory Comparisons (ILC): During 2005-06, the Textiles Committee modernize the following Inter Laboratory (ILC) :

(a) Two ILC for mechanical and chemical testing, and another ILC for Colourfastness to light.

(b) Textiles Committee was authorized by the NABL for conducting Inter Laboratory Proficiency Test (ILPT) among the accredited laboratories in India and Bangladesh in respect of free formaldehyde test.

TQM Services: Textiles Committee has reoriented its role from regulatory to developmental one. Consultancy was reoriented on ISO-9000 quality management systems, ISO-14000 Environmental Management systems, SA-8000 (Social Accountability Management Systems) and OHSAS 18000 (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series) to textiles units on chargeable basis.

40 units have availed consultancy services under ISO 9001/2000, taking the total number of units under consultancy to 332.

HANDLOOM MARK: Textiles Committee acted as Implementation Agency (IA) to the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms). The Handloom Mark was launched by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, on June 28, 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The target of Cluster Level Seminar during the year is 30.

Heimtextil India: Textiles Committee participated in the Heimtextil India Exhibition, to publicise Handloom Mark.

TQM Division of Textiles Committee is implementing "Handloom Mark" Scheme. The Committee will also continue to further popularize the concept of ISO 9000/ISO 14000/ SA 8000/OHSAS 18001/FiT Bench marking particularly for the decentralized sector.

Market Research Services

a) United Nation Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) Project: Strategies & Preparedness on Trade & Globalisation for Textiles & Clothing Sector.

b) Study on Demand Estimation of Home Textiles (Sponsored by Bombay Dyeing Mfg. Co.)

- A total of 3000 households from 30 Metro/big cities in higher income groups were contacted

for collection of home textile data.

- The final report has been submitted to M/s. Bombay Dyeing & Mfg. Co. Ltd., in April, 2006.

c) Study on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Textiles

- The draft report relating to study on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Textiles has been prepared and sent to Ministry of Textiles.

d) Strategies and Preparedness on Trade and Globalization in India.

The Government of India, UNCTAD and Department for International Development (DFID), UK are jointly implementing a four year programme titled" Strategies and Preparedness on Trade and Globalisation in India". The project aims at strengthening human and institutional capacities among stakeholders so as to support and sustain a process of modernization. The textiles Committee have been selected by UNCTAD as Tier-I partner is implementing this project for the Textiles and Clothing Sector.

The project aims to strengthen human and institutional capacities among stakeholders that will support and sustain a more equitable process of globalization. It will facilitate building capacities on trade competitiveness in selected sectors and regions.

During 2005-06, the schemes for Quality Appraisal of fabric, made-ups & garments were finalized, and were given wide publicity among the exporters as well as to overseas buyers. Recently on the insistence of a Canadian buyer the officials of Textiles Committee, were deputed to Sri Lanka to inspect Readymade Garments meant for export to Canada. This is the first time the Committee undertook overseas inspection.

M/s. Sabare International Ltd., Karur has expressed interest to avail the consultancy services from Textiles Committee. M/s. Sabare International Ltd is one of the leading exporters of home textiles in India having their operations at Karur, Noida and Panipat with an investment of Rs.350 crores.

The Textiles Committee, in its 34th meeting held on October 16, 2006, decided to get accredited under ISO 17020, exclusively meant for commercial inspection, through the Quality Council of India. The Committee would be the first organization to get such accreditation in India.

Cluster Development Programme

1. Since July 2006 13 workshops and 1 exposure visit had been undertaken in areas of technical / skill up-gradation, Government support schemes, market intervention, etc, relevant to the concerned clusters.

2. To enhance the marketing and design skills in Tirupur cluster and transfer of best practices. A network project namely Fashion Know-How and Business Development was implemented. This was done in collaboration with Construction Industry Policy & European Regulation (CITER), Indo Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (IICCI), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)-TEA, Textiles Committee and local trade bodies. The project had four modules, and approx. 175 participants participated in each module.

3. Under the Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (IHCDS) diagnostic study for Bijnore handloom cluster in Uttar Pradesh has been completed.

4. A business-to-business network platform was created for the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SME) in Panipat textile cluster through the SME Expo on 15 to 17 September '06.

FINANCES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee collects cess at the rate of 0.05% advalorem from all textiles (excluding powerlooms and handlooms) and textiles machinery manufacturers. The Committee also generates its own revenue through user charges, which includes testing and certification charges, consultancy fee, etc.

- Cess Collection: During 2005-06, the collection of Cess under Textiles Committee Act, 1963 stood at Rs.52.64 crore against Rs.49.62 in 2004-05.

- Internal Revenue: During 2005-06, the Committee generated revenue of Rs.15.09 crores against Rs.12.20 crores in 2004-05. The marginal slide was duo to the fall in the revenue generated under the regulatory certification schemes consequent to phasing out of quota w.e.f. January 1, 2005.

ACTION PLAN 2005-06

The Action Plan for the year 2006-07 envisages:

(a) Assisting the industry in improving its competitiveness and compliance in the areas of quality, environment and social responsibility standards.

(b) Facilitating export promotion through quality appraisal and certifications of textiles.

(c) Facilitating the capacity building of textiles & clothing SMEs to meet the emerging global challenges.

(d) Assisting the industry to upgrade the knowledge/skill base of its middle level management personnel.

(e) Undertaking industry specific studies to fill the data gaps in vital sectors of the industry.

(f) Facilitating the projects aimed at bridging the gaps in critical infrastructure.

(g) Augmenting the collection of Cess, which is a source of revenue to the Government of India.