

**Ministry of Textiles
Government of India**

Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the Month of April, 2017

A. Important policy decisions taken during the month:

1. Launch of Power Tex India Programme - Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles launched the Power Tex India Programme at Bhiwandi, Maharashtra on 1st April 2017. It is a comprehensive scheme for the development of powerloom sector which consists of following components;

- a) In-situ Upgradation of Plain Powerlooms: Provide subsidy of 50% – 90% to upgrade plain powerlooms by attaching specified kits. With In situ Upgradation, Plain looms become equivalent to Semi Automatic Shuttle loom and with the Rapier Kit upgradation they become at par with Shuttleless looms in terms of quality.
- b) Group Workshed Scheme (GWS): Provide subsidy of 40% - 90% on construction cost of Group Workshed.
- c) Yarn Bank Scheme: Provide interest free corpus fund of Max.Rs.2 cr to the SPV formed by powerloom weavers to purchase raw yarn at reasonable price.
- d) Common Facility Centre (CFC): Provide subsidy of Max. Rs.2 crore to the SPV formed by powerloom weavers for construction of building and installation of machineries which is meant for common use by the powerloom weavers.
- e) Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme for Powerloom Weavers: Provide margin money subsidy of Max.Rs.1 lakh and interest subvention of 6% on the term loan availed under PMMY for 5 years. Margin money subsidy of Max.Rs.25 lakh on the term loan availed under Stand-up India scheme by SC/ST/Women powerloom entrepreneurs.
- f) Solar Energy Scheme for Powerlooms: Provide subsidy of 50% – 90% for installation of Solar Energy system by powerloom weavers.
- g) Facilitation, IT, Awareness, Market Development and Publicity for Powerloom Schemes: Establishment of Help centre, Toll free helpline, user friendly online

portal to avail benefits of the schemes, conducting awareness programmes, BSM, etc.

h) Tex Venture Capital Fund: Max. investment of Rs.3 crore in innovative private powerloom MSME companies by SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd., (SVCL).

i) Grant-in-Aid to Powerloom Service Centres: Provide financial assistance upto Rs.17 lakh per year to the PSCs of TRAs/State Govt. agencies for recurring expenses.

j) Modernisation of Powerloom Service Centres.

2. Approval of Price for Raw Jute for the year 2017-18: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of raw jute (TDN3 equivalent to TD5 of old grade) for 2017-18 season at Rs.3500/- per quintal. It also approved that Jute Corporation of India will continue as Central Government Nodal Agency to undertake Price Support Operations and the losses incurred, if any, in the MSP operations will be fully reimbursed by the Central Government

3. Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) has been discontinued and converged with Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojna, being implemented through Ministry of Labour and Employment vide Notification No. 14/3/2011-PL, dated 6th April, 2017.

4. Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 14th April, 2017 between Development Commissioner (Handlooms), and National Schedule Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, with the main objective of increasing earnings of handloom weavers belonging to Scheduled Caste category.

B. Major achievements during the month:

1. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles inaugurated the first Common Facility Centre at Palladam on 27.4.2017. She also held discussions with various Textile Associations at Coimbatore.

2. The Textile Commissioner facilitated and coordinated the 6th Edition of International Exhibition and Conference on Technical Textiles 'Technotex 2017' which was held from April 12-14, 2017 at Bombay Exhibition Centre Goregaon, Mumbai. She also made a presentation on the Technical Textiles scenario in India.

3. On the occasion of birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Ministry of Textiles organized a Conference of Scheduled caste artisans/weavers at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 14th April, 2017 with the following initiatives:

- (a) Interaction with beneficiaries of silk projects at Jammu and Nainital through video conference,
- (b) Distribution of Cheques and tool kits to 5 beneficiaries of silk projects belonging to Scheduled Caste category.
- (c) Interaction with handicraft artisans in Bareilly Handicrafts Mega Cluster through video conference.
- (d) Distribution of improved tool kits to 5 handicraft artisans belonging to SC category.
- (e) Distribution of Mudra Loan to 8 Handloom weavers/handicraft artisans belonging to SC category.
- (f) Distribution of certificate to 5 Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) trainees belonging to scheduled caste category.

4. Birth Centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was also celebrated at 61 field Offices under the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) by holding a camp with following objectives :

- i) Downloading of BHIM application on artisans' mobiles and educating them on how to use it with the help of Bank officials.
- ii) Awareness about "India Handmade Bazaar" portal and registering at least 20 artisans on portal in each camp.
- iii) Distribution of Artisans ID Card.

5. Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme: The project cost under the Scheme is Rs.8421 crores with a subsidy requirement of Rs.661.29 crores. Total number of UIDs issued under ATUFS upto April, 2017 is 2693.

6. Under ISDS a total of 16,950 persons have been trained in the first month of this financial year. On 14th April, 2017 on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, events to distribute certificate to SC students were held in Indore and Tirupur and also in the main programme at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

7. In-situ Upgradation of Plain Powerloom Scheme: During April, 2017 a total 11,398 kits were fitted and Rs.1343.08 lakhs expenditure incurred under this scheme.
