

Ministry of Textiles

Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the Month of April, 2020

1. Policy Decisions:

- (i) Exemption of the provisions of JPM Act, 1987 for the use of HDPE/PP bags in packaging of foodgrains.

The Ministry on 6th April, 2020 approved dilution for use of HDPE/PP bags to the extent of 82, 000 bales as requested by Department of Food and Public Distribution.

- (ii) A Virtual meeting conducted by Ministry of Textiles with CCI and representatives of all cotton growing states regarding MSP operations of seed cotton (kapas). The State Governments have been directed to take steps to generate awareness amongst farmers regarding MSP procurement and also take adequate measures for accessibility of cotton farmers to the APMCs in co-ordination with CCI, to enable them access to MSP.

2. Important Achievements:

- (i) COVID-19 RELATED:

In an effort to combat COVID-19 crisis in country, the Ministry of Textiles has worked relentlessly in maintaining a smooth supply chain of PPEs (Body Coveralls) and N-95 masks required for use of health professionals to HLL Lifecare Ltd (the procurement arm of the Ministry

of Health and Family Welfare). 8 testing laboratories have been notified which are equipped to conduct testing and certification of **Synthetic Blood Penetration Resistance Test** required for Body-Coveralls for COVID-19. Quality Protocol has been issued to ensure that quality and safety standards are maintained. As on 30.04.2020, the production of PPE Body Coveralls reached 17.93 lakhs and N-95 masks of 55.64 lakhs.

(ii) **Handlooms Sector:**

To create awareness amongst employees of Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms) and Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) as well as subordinate office and the weavers/handloom workers/artisans across the country about the Arogya Setu App and to facilitate them its download in their mobile phones, this office, in coordination with weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) and Handicrafts Services Centre and others to download Arogya Setu App and for its use.

(iii) **Cotton:** All India arrivals of seed cotton (kapas) during the month of April, 2020 were 3.92 lakh bales. . Out of which, 1.29 lakh bales of kapas have been procured by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation.