

Maran pushes for R&D in textiles

fe Bureau

New Delhi, Sep 10: Outlining details of the initiatives taken during 100 days, Union textiles minister Dayanidhi Maran, said the ministry has worked on several programmes, which include strengthening the industry, providing funds for modernisation and technology upgrade and making textiles parks operational.

Apart from these, other initiatives have been taken for skill development and welfare of people engaged in handicrafts, handlooms, power looms and sericulture sectors.

"These initiatives are just the beginning. We have a huge task cut-out before us to maximise the productivity and welfare of stakeholders and tackle issues affecting the holistic growth and de-

100-day progress card

- The highest-ever amount of subsidy of Rs 2,546 cr released under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme in single tranche
- For the first time, the subsidy credited to 12,514 beneficiaries bank accounts within 72 hours
- A working group formed to formulate National Fibre Policy, to ensure equitable use of fibre and ensure balanced growth of textiles chain
- E-Portal for marketing of Indian handicrafts and handlooms products launched
- 1.5 lakh artisans issued ID cards to provide unique identity number to each artisan. 50,000 weavers empowered through skill development

velopment of the textiles industry and employment generation," said Maran.

In a bid to provide professional education covering the entire spectrum of textiles, Maran said Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Institute of Textile Management (SVPITM), Coimbatore will be upgraded and renamed as Indian School of Textiles.

The ministry will promote R&D in the textiles sec-

tor including handlooms and handicrafts to provide a 'common technology platform' on commercial basis for promoting new technologies towards value addition and product diversification.

"My new mantra for the textiles sector is 'manufacture in India, sell in India and make money in India. I had the same mantra for the telecom sector. Keeping this in view, we are planning to

have roadshows in seven European countries in November to attract investment in Indian textiles," said the minister.

Maran also stressed on taking necessary steps to safeguard and promote organic cotton in the country.

For the compliance of environmental and social regulatory requirements, the government will help the textiles industry to build capacities with a view to capture overseas markets and meet global environmental standards like Oeko-Tech, Blue sign, EU Flower and Eco-Level, he added.

Approximately 50% of the textiles production is exported, of which 60% goes to the European Union (EU) and the US, both hit by the economic slowdown. Therefore, the ministry is focusing on the 'Look East' policy, and

had led a delegation of exporters to Tokyo and invited the Japanese textiles industry to collaborate with Indian textiles industry to manufacture fabric and garmenting, setting up of Green Field Units in textiles machinery, man-made fibre and yarn and create brand equity with Indian Apparel company.

The Foreign Trade Policy announced on August 27, 2009, has substantially addressed the concerns of the exporters. For the first time, the largest ever amount of Rs 2,546 crore, as subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, has been released in a single tranche and credited to beneficiaries accounts in record 3 days.

This has given positive signal to the industry and fillip to modernisation and upgrade of technology by textiles units.