

Textile research gets more funding

Focus on processing, quality of fabrics

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COIMBATORE: The Union Ministry of Textiles will increase its funding for Textile Research Associations from this year.

Joint Secretary of Textiles J. N. Singh told *The Hindu* that the annual funding would be increased to Rs. 10 crore for Textile Research Associations (TRAs) from this year.

The TRAs received about Rs. 2-crore annual support now.

He said the focus would be on applied research such as processing, improving the quality of fabrics and fibre. The Ministry was receiving proposals from the research

associations on the potential projects that they could take up. Further, the Textile Ministry was in talks with the Ministry of Science and Technology to see if additional funds could be allocated for textile research.

The TRAs were also identified as Centres of Excellence for different types of technical textiles.

"We are working on a Technology Mission for Technical Textiles," he said.

The SITRA (South India Textile Research Association) Employees' Union here appealed to the Ministry of Textiles to sustain its support to the TRAs so that textile research and the industry benefited.