

# India aims to attract \$6 b European FDI in textile sector

## Industry needs additional \$24 b to keep high growth rate, says Maran

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In a first government-industry synergy of efforts, a high-level trade delegation is making a two-phase visit to Europe, covering five major countries in a move to attract \$6 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) by 2015 into the country's textile sector.

The Union Textile Minister, Mr Dayanidhi Maran, announced the road shows at a news conference. To leverage India's various incentives to foreign investors such as low-cost labour and intellectual property rights protection, he said the textile industry requires an additional investment of \$24 billion by 2015 to maintain a high growth rate of eight per cent.

The Minister, who is leading the team, said this might include domestic investment of \$18 billion and FDI of \$6 bil-



Mr Dayanidhi Maran, Union Textiles Minister, and Ms Rita Menon, Textiles Secretary, addressing the media in New Delhi on Wednesday. — R.V. Moorthy

lion. Mr Maran pointed out that the domestic textile sector was able to attract only \$200 million or 0.6 per cent of the overall FDI of \$33 billion in 2008, whereas the Chinese textile industry was able to attract

and sustain FDI of \$10 billion.

### ROAD SHOWS

He said in the first phase, an industry delegation led by him would visit Switzerland, Italy and Turkey from October 26 to

November 3 to conduct road shows in Zurich, Switzerland where they would interact with major textile machinery manufacturers such as Beninger (processing) Reiter (spinning), Jacob Muller (warping and weaving machine) and high-end fabric manufacturers Weisbrod-Zuerrer Ltd.

In Milan, Italy, the delegation would hold talks with Miroglio (yarn, fabrics and garments), Marzotto (high-end woollen fabric and suiting), Gruppo Coin (apparel and retail), Vincenzo Zucchi (Home textiles), Radici group (fibre) and Zegna (high-end menswear and sportswear).

In Istanbul, Turkey, the delegation would interact with representatives of Bilsar (designing and production of shirts), Yunsa Yunlu san.Ti.c.A.S (woollen and worsted menswear fabric, home and office furniture fabric).

In the phase two, the delegation would tour Frankfurt, Germany and France from November 23 to 26 to attract investment in technical textiles.

Mr Maran said the mission for seeking overseas investments in the textile segment was important to get a substantial chunk of the global textile market to capture four per cent share in global trade in textiles and clothing and also to achieve the goals of employment generation, technology upgradation and creation of brand India.

He said States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu would be vastly benefited from the foreign inflow of funds as these States remain the country's textile hubs with a vertical and horizontal integrated textile value chain. He said that he would be meeting States' Chief Ministers to seek their support in this effort.