

National fibre policy to be woven in 12th Plan

Draft delayed as it had to be sent to 14 ministries due to specific financial commitments

Neha Pal

New Delhi, Dec 1: The much-awaited National Fibre Policy — a concept first mooted by former textile minister Dayanidhi Maran in 2009 — has again been delayed and will now be folded into the next plan.

Speaking on the sidelines of a Ficci conference, textiles secretary Rita Menon said: “The National Fibre Policy will be embedded in the 12th Five Year Plan, which will strengthen the fibre economy of the country and make the

Indian textiles and garments sector competitive.”

The ministry had constituted a 41-member working group to formulate the policy. The working group comprised eight sub-groups, including cotton, man-made fibres, jute, silk, wool, other natural fibres, speciality fibres (technical textiles) and speciality (suv in and organic) cotton.

Commenting on the delay, DK Nair, secretary general, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (Citi), said: “The government policies are main-



ly responsible for this delay.. There is a mismatch between our production and global consumption trends because we are not able to use man-made fibres in large quantities.”

V Srinivas, joint secretary, ministry of textiles, told *FE*: “The draft of the policy had specific financial commitments and was sent to 14 ministries for comments, which delayed the matter.”

The domestic fibre consumption ratio between man-made fibres and cotton in India currently stands at 41:59, while

it is almost 60:40 globally.

The global fibre consumption trend in the future is likely to further tilt in favour of man-made fibres as there is little growth potential for cotton worldwide due to limited availability of land for cultivation.

Nair said the policy is not just aimed at augmenting investment and increasing fibre availability in the country, but also correcting fiscal anomalies and policy limitations that are currently present in the fibre ecosystem, in order to ensure balanced growth.