

Speech of Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles for the Curtain Raiser on the workshops of technical textiles Technotex-2009) at New Delhi on the 12th August 2009

5/2009/Techtextiles

My senior colleague Shri Dayanidhi Maran ji, Secretary Textiles Smt. Rita Menon ji, Joint Secretary (Textiles) Shri Bhupendra Singh ji, Textile Commissioner Shri A.B. Joshi ji, President of FICCI Shri Harsh Pati Singhanian ji, senior Officials of the Ministry, Delegates, Media, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to deliver Special Address on the occasion of ***Curtain raiser on the series of workshops on technical textiles (Technotex – 2009)*** and launch of exclusive ***website on technical textiles***.

2. Technical textiles are textile materials and products manufactured primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics. Their applications are in the fields of aerospace, industry, marine, military, safety and transport, etc..

3. An outstanding feature of the technical textile industry is the range and diversity of raw materials, processes, products and applications that it encompasses.

4. The wide range of applications, lack of competition, growing consumer and industrial demands make it an attractive option to invest in. Though India is the 2nd largest textile economy in the world after China; its contribution in the global technical textile industry is insignificant.

5. The Government has already initiated actions for growth and development of technical textiles. Major machinery required for the technical textiles has been placed in the concessional custom duty list of 5 percent. All the technical textile machinery is covered under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which are eligible for 5% interest reimbursement and also specified machinery for manufacturing of technical textiles are covered under 10% capital subsidy.

6. It is appropriate to mention here that our **UPA Government under the able guidance of Smt. Sonia Gandhiji and under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singhji** has taken a historical

decision to release Rs. 2546 crore as subsidy in a single tranche to clear all the backlog applications upto June 2009 under TUFS. This will go a long way for the upgradation of various machinery to be purchased in this regard to produce Technical Textiles too. The efforts taken by our Minister in this regard is laudable.

7. The Govt. is organizing seminars / workshops in different parts of the country to increase the awareness of technical textiles in association with Textiles Related Associations, Industry Associations & some foreign technical textiles agencies also. So far 21 such awareness/ training workshops, seminars have been organized and have received huge response from the industry.

8. As you aware that the potential is huge for technical textiles in Fields of road, railways and infrastructure development in the country but till now use of technical textiles has been limited to very few projects. The Govt. is going to invest heavily on infrastructure development in the coming years. So obviously, one of the largest consumers of these technical textiles would be public sector in various areas like infrastructure, healthcare, transportation, construction, irrigation, defence etc. Hence to appraise various consumers, especially in the public sector about the applications of technical textiles and their benefits, the Ministry of Textiles in partnership with FICCI will be organizing four series of workshops on **“Strengthening Government-Industry-Consumer Partnership in Technical Textiles”** in Meditech, Protech, Agrotech and Geotech segment of Technical Textiles.

9. The Objective of the workshops are; to promote better quality of life for people through increased usage of technical textiles in the country; to provide an update on recent developments in technical textiles; to suggest measures for increasing consumption of technical textiles in India; to provide opportunity to users to learn more about the characteristics of technical textiles through exhibits.

10. I am confident that the forthcoming workshops will certainly help the technical textile stake holders to share their views, experiences, expectations, bottlenecks of technical textiles is facing and to evolve the road map for promotion of technical textiles in India.

11. I am happy to say that the FICCI is shouldering the Government and Textiles Research Association responsibility for the growth and development of technical textiles in India.

12. I hope that the exclusive website of technical textiles will serve the technical textiles stakeholders in all its needs on information front. I am also hopeful that the website would become more exhaustive.

13. As our country is the second largest textile economy in the world, let us have a dream and determination of achieving at least the same position in technical textiles too.

14. Before I conclude let me wish a great success for the forthcoming series of workshops on technical textiles and exclusive technical textiles website.

! Thank you !

! Jai Hind !