

## Textile Briefs National

**1** According to APTMA, textile sales in the local market currently stand at \$13.7 billion out of the combined local and foreign sales of \$26 billion. Textile exports for the year 2016-17 stood at \$12.3 billion. In this context, the smuggled or informal (24%) and imported goods (44%) make up the rest of the textile products being sold in Pakistan.

**2** The Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has expressed grave concern over sluggish growth in exports. The high cost of production, competitiveness, inconsistency in government policies and uncompetitive energy prices have contributed to this crisis-like situation.

**3** The private banks have refused to reschedule loans for the revival of sustainable sick textile units. The revival of textile units running under capacity was aimed at increasing the exports in the textile sector, and turning down the request will further exacerbate the crisis.

**4** Cotton Crop Assessment Committee (CCAC) has estimated the cotton production at 12.6 million bales during the crop season 2017-18 against the set targets of 14.04 million bales.

**5** The Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) Dr. Jasso Mal demanded of the government to fix electricity tariff at Rs 5 per unit for ginners and impose a complete ban on the import of cotton till the consumption of local produce.

**6** Pakistan and Indonesia have agreed on concession for 20 different items during bilateral negotiation under Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). Both sides discussed 20 tariff lines and Indonesia agreed to give concession on major exports from Pakistan including textile, rice, ethanol, kinnow and mangoes, as per information revealed by a senior official of Ministry of Commerce.

**7** According to official sources efforts are also being undertaken including Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with Turkey, Thailand and Iran to gain access to Pakistani products in these potential markets. Over Rs. 6.0 billion has been allocated in the current financial year to facilitate exporters under the Textile Policy 2014-2019.

**8** The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved a proposal that 50 percent of the export package incentive for eligible textile and non-textile sectors, announced in Prime Minister's Export Package, be provided on the same terms as for the period January to June 2017 without a condition of increment. Remaining 50 percent of the rate of incentive would be provided if the exporter achieves an increase of 10 percent or more in exports as compared to the corresponding period of the last year. ♦

## Textile Briefs International



**1** The fall in export earnings of Bangladesh is due to inadequate performance of the RMG sector. Bangladesh exports to the USA totalled \$ 5,846.64 million during the last fiscal (2016-17) compared to \$ 6,220.65 million during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal (2015-16).

**2** The size of Indian domestic textile machinery industry is poised to hit Rs 32,000-35,000 crore in the next five years from the present Rs 22,000 crore on the back of government initiatives like 'Make in India' revealed Sanjiv Lathia, Chairman International Textile Machinery Exhibitions Society.

**3** The global silk market is projected to reach US\$ 16.94 billion by 2021, at a CAGR of 7.8% from 2016 to 2021. Silk is witnessing an increase in demand in the Asia-Pacific region, mainly in China. Asia-Pacific is the largest producer of raw silk with the easy availability of raw materials in the region.

**4** The clothing industry is a major manufacturing sector of Hong Kong. It is the fourth largest manufacturing employer, with 657 establishments hiring 4,763 workers as of March 2017. Hong Kong's clothing exports saw 10% decline year-on-year in the first five months of 2017.

**5** In 2017-18, world cotton production is projected to increase by 8% to 24.9 million tonnes due entirely to an 8% expansion in world cotton area to 31.7 million hectares, which is below the 20-year average of 32.7 million hectares. The world average yield is forecast at 785 kg/ha.

**6** Latest Cotton Incorporated Lifestyle Monitor Survey says that 73% of US consumers believed better quality garments are made from natural fibres and 65% of were willing to pay more for it. Most fashion brands are adopting green techniques/designs to increase efficiency and reduce waste in the production process.

**7** Starting from May 2017 onwards, the Chinese cotton sales from the state reserves have reached above 1.1 million tonnes. This number has brought down the net volume of cotton held by the government of China, to about 7.2 million tonnes.

**8** The Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) welcomed the Centre's move to bring down the GST rate on textile job work from 18% to 5%. All the textile job works, being the manufacturing activities, had been exempted from the service tax in the pre-GST regime, but, the job workers could not avail the input tax credit that had been increasing the cost of the products and affecting the export competitiveness and also the domestic consumers.

**9** Myanmar's garment export earnings increased to the US \$940 million in the year to mid-October up from the US \$409 million in the corresponding period last year. An increase in earnings was mainly because of a rise in exports to Japan and the European Union. ♦