



The Southern India Mills' Association

Post Box No. 3783, 41 Race Course, Coimbatore - 641 018

Phone: 0422 4225333 | Fax: 0422 4225366

E-mail: info@simamills.org | Web: www.simamills.org

NEWS CLIPPINGS –15-05-2018

Power looms to work in single shift only	Times of India https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/power-loom-to-work-in-single-shift-only/articleshow/64165303.cms
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Surat: The Federation of Gujarat Weavers Association (Fogwa) has announced that the power loom sector in the Diamond City will operate for a single shift of eight hours to protest the phenomenal increase in yarn prices by the spinners on Monday.

The Fogwa had organized a public meeting at Bhatena to protest the increase in prices by the yarn spinners. The Fogwa leaders demanded that the state government immediately implement the decision on formation of the committee on anti-profiteering so that weavers could file cases against the yarn spinners for not passing on the benefits of the Goods and Services Tax.

The Fogwa has charted out a series of demands from the state and central government, including demand for accumulated input tax credit (ITC) to the power loom sector, recovery of increased yarn prices from weavers, reducing electricity tariff on the lines of Maharashtra, abolition of anti-dumping duty on yarn, increasing subsidy on the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) from 10% to 30%, setting up of commercial courts to protect weavers from fly-by-night operators in the textile markets, etc.

Fogwa president Ashok Jirawala told TOI, "All the 6.5 lakh power loom machines will be operated for a single shift of eight hours to protest the phenomenal increase in yarn prices. The spinners have increased yarn prices by almost 35% in past couple of months, which has pushed the power loom sector on the verge of collapse."

Jirawala added, "The central government has formed an anti-profiteering screening committee in the state, but the state government is yet to implement it. We demand that the state government immediately make the anti-profiteering screening committee operational in order to assist power loom weavers in filing cases against the yarn spinners."

Bandh at Ichalkaranji to demand drinking water	Times of India https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/bandh-at-ichalkaranji-to-demand-drinking-water/articleshow/64165538.cms
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Kolhapur: Residents of Ichalkaranji observed a total bandh on Monday to push their demand for completion of a pipeline scheme that will bring drinking water to the textile town from Warana river. All business activities in the textile town including the power looms, shops were voluntarily shut for the day. The residents have formed an action committee led by Ichalkaranji municipal council president Alka Swami.

Considering the drinking water requirements of the town, the state government has sanctioned the project for

Ichalkaranji under the Atal Mission For Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme. On April 13, 2017, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated a water supply project worth Rs 68.68 crore for Ichalkaranji under AMRUT and Nagarotthan abhiyan (Urban Renewal Mission) through e-Bhoomi puja from his residence in Mumbai.

On Monday, Swami said, "Getting drinking water to Ichalkaranji is necessary. It is sad that the villagers (residing along the river bank) are opposing it. We are left with no option but to call a bandh to press our demand. Besides clearing the project and sanctioning the funds, the government has reserved 1.6 TMC water for Ichalkaranji from Warana dam. It is our right to get drinking water. We will continue our agitation till the work on the project starts."

The residents supporting the bandh included representatives of all the parties and various organisations related to power looms, labour and other associations. They had gathered before Shivaji statue and organised a morcha covering major streets in the town and shouting slogans demanding the completion of water scheme.

"We will organise a cyclical sit-in agitation from Tuesday to press our demand," she said.

On the other hand, villagers residing on the Warana river bank observed a bandh last week to protest against the proposed drinking water pipeline scheme. On Sunday, villagers from two zilla parishad wards surrounding the river observed a bandh to protest against the scheme. As per the scheme, water from Warana river from Danoli village will be carried to Ichalkaranji.

Irani takes stakeholders' feedback on scheme for capacity building in textiles

Money Control

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/irani-takes-stakeholders-feedback-on-scheme-for-capacity-building-in-textiles-2568473.html>

Union Minister Smriti Irani today sought feedback from stakeholders on 'Samarth', a scheme for capacity building and skilling in the textile sector.

Union Minister Smriti Irani today sought feedback from stakeholders on 'Samarth', a scheme for capacity building and skilling in the textile sector. The scheme targets to train 10 lakh persons (9 lakh in organised and 1 lakh in traditional sector) over a period of three years (2017-20), with an outlay of Rs 1,300 crore. The guidelines of the scheme were released on April 23 this year.

The broad objective of the new scheme under the Skill India Mission is to skill the youth for gainful and sustainable employment in the textile sector covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving. "The concerns of the stakeholders and challenges faced by them during implementation of the previous scheme were discussed in the meeting.

"Feedback from the concerned stakeholders on how the scheme can contribute and benefit the textile industry and boost skill development in the respective sector was also discussed," an official statement said.

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on December 20 last year, is intended to provide demand driven, placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes to incentivise and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the textiles sectors.

The Supreme Court of India has declined to stay a high court order that invalidated Monsanto's patent for its genetically modified cotton seed. Its decision was voiced in the preamble to a case between Monsanto and Hyderabad-based agricultural seeds company Nuziveedu and its subsidiaries, to be heard in July.

The case brings the spotlight back to the dispute over the interpretation of intellectual property rights (IPR) in the case of genetically modified (GM) plants.

Monsanto was granted patent #214436, titled 'Methods for transforming plants to express bacillus thuringiensis deltaendotoxins'. The submission covered a range of novel claims, including 'claim 25', which dealt with the specific gene sequence from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). When inserted into cotton plants, Bt provided resistance to the American bollworm pest *Helicoverpa armigera*.

In technical parlance, claim 25 says:

A nucleic acid sequence comprising a promoter operably linked to a first polynucleotide sequence encoding a plastid transit peptide, which is linked in frame to a second polynucleotide sequence encoding a Cry2Ab *Bacillus thuringiensis* 8-endotoxin protein, wherein expression of said nucleic acid sequence by a plant cell produces a fusion protein comprising an amino-terminal plastid transit peptide covalently linked to said 5- endotoxin protein, and wherein said fusion protein functions to localise said 5-endotoxin protein to a subcellular organelle or compartment.

Monsanto had claimed a patent right over the entire plant that had the Bt gene sequence inserted into it. The Delhi high court had ruled that this patent was not valid, as under Section 3(j) of the Indian Patents Act 1970, the patenting of plants (rather biological material in general) is not allowed. Should the Supreme Court echo the Delhi court's verdict, Monsanto will have patent rights only over the gene sequence.

Section 3(j) of the Indian Patents Act 1970 states:

Grant of patents is prohibited to ... plants and animals in whole or any part thereof other than micro-organisms but including seeds, varieties and species and essentially biological processes for production or propagation of plants and animals.

The PPVFR Act

Under licensing agreements signed in 2004, Monsanto had sold 50 Bt cotton seeds for Rs 50 lakh to Nuziveedu and its subsidiaries, a deal renewed through a new agreement in 2015. Nuziveedu and its subsidiaries had used those donor seeds in their breeding programme to develop more varieties.

Nuziveedu later contended that the Bt cotton developed by it and its subsidiaries has its own and distinct characteristics separate from the Bt trait. Thus, according to the company, the new varieties they had developed were not the same as the donor seeds patented by Monsanto. Nuziveedu and its subsidiaries have applied for IPR protection for their cotton varieties under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Act 2001.

Nuziveedu has also argued that Monsanto did not transfer the specific *method* of transformation, that only the seeds of the transgenic variety were given.

The division bench of the Delhi high court, in its ruling, took into consideration how Monsanto negotiated its patent. The court observed the following:

Subsequent correspondence between the Patent office and Monsanto resulted in exclusion of plants, plant cells, tissues and progeny plant containing the nucleic acid sequence as well as plants created through an essentially biological process (excluded on account of Section 3(j)). This narrowing of the patent claims, in the opinion of the court, is relevant, because ultimately what was granted was not a patent over the product, or even the method, but of identification of the 'event' i.e. the place in the genetic sequence of the DNA where the CryAB2 protein, in the plant cell.

The court also said that "the moment the DNA containing the nucleotide sequence is hybridised to produce the transgenic seeds/plants, the seeds/plants fall within the purview of the [PPVFR] Act."

Lack of participation

The academic literature remains divided over whether farmers gained or lost after using Bt cotton.

The Bt gene confers resistance to bollworm and, as a linked effect, improves yields. Several studies have documented economic gains to farmers after using Bt cotton.

On the other hand, there have also been many academic reports on bollworms developing resistance to the original Bt gene, and of increased attacks by other insect pests not targeted by Bt, negating the benefits of the Bt gene.

A 2013 paper by P. Ramasundaram, of the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, and S. Vennila, of the National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (both in New Delhi), pointed out that for the (Bt) gene to have its maximum effect, the host cotton plant into which it is inserted – selected from the existing stock of hybrids in India – should also have robust yield potential.

They write, "Most of the socio-economic impact studies on Bt cotton attribute the benefits accrued solely to the new technology, ignoring the effects of the hybrids whose area itself has increased from less than 40% to more than 90% since the introduction of the technology."

Experts have also been divided over the issue of royalties that farmers need to pay for buying and using Bt cotton seeds. According to Nuziveedu's submission to the Delhi high court, the donor seeds of the transgenic variety supplied by Monsanto could not be used by farmers. Instead, the Nuziveedu companies had to use the donor seeds to breed new varieties with more or additional traits, produce *their* seeds and supply those seeds to farmers.

Bt or no Bt, Rajeswari Raina, a science policy expert who specialises on the impact of agricultural research, pointed out that India follows an industrial agriculture model that focuses on increasing yields through supply of inputs in a centrally controlled manner. As a result, this model has been partly responsible for "the historical lack of

participation and transparency in decision-making on GM crops”, according to her, as well as for India’s science and technology leaders being unable to find sustainable solutions that are not input-intensive. She is a professor at Shiv Nadar University and former principal scientist at the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi. However, if Bt cotton were to be registered under the PPVFR Act, farmers will be able to use it for further breeding.

The Supreme Court’s decision on the IPR issue of Bt cotton will not have a bearing on India’s long-delayed decision on whether to allow the commercial cultivation of GM mustard, developed by Deepak Pental and co. at Delhi University.

Assam to roll out intra-state e-way bill from May 16, Rajasthan on May 20

Money Control

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/assam-to-roll-out-intra-state-e-way-bill-from-may-16-rajasthan-on-may-20-2568515.html>

E-way bill for intra-state movement of goods valued over Rs 50,000 would be mandatory in Assam and Rajasthan from May 16 and May 20, respectively, according to a finance ministry statement.

E-way bill for intra-state movement of goods valued over Rs 50,000 would be mandatory in Assam and Rajasthan from May 16 and May 20, respectively, according to a finance ministry statement. From April 1, the government had launched the electronic way or e-way bill system for moving goods worth over Rs 50,000 from one state to another.

The same for intra or within the state movement has been rolled out from April 15. So far 18 states, including Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Union Territory like Puducherry have made e-way bill mandatory for intra-state movement of goods.

Till May 13, more than 4.15 crore e-way bills have been generated which includes more than 1 crore e-way bills for intra-state movement of goods. "E-way bill system for intra-state movement of goods would be implemented in Assam from May 16 and Rajasthan from May 20, 2018, the statement said.

With the roll-out of e-way bill system in these states/ Union Territory, it is expected that trade and industry will be further facilitated as the transport of goods is concerned, thereby eventually paving the way for a nation-wide single e-way Bill system, it added. The GST council had decided on a staggered roll-out of intra-state e-way bill starting April 15 to allow the system to handle the load. Touted as an anti-evasion measure and would help boost tax collections by clamping down on trade that currently happens on cash basis, the GST e-way bill provision was first introduced on February 1.

However, its implementation was put on hold after the system developed glitches in generating permits. With several states also starting to generate intra-state e-way bills on the portal, the system developed a snag. Since then, the platform has been made more robust so that it can handle load of as many as 75 lakh inter-state e-way bills daily without any glitch.

Prevent seeds from Gujarat: Chandrababu	<p style="text-align: center;">The Hans India</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Andhra-Pradesh/2018-05-14/Prevent-seeds-from-Gujarat-Chandrababu--/381218</p>
<p>Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu has said that cotton seeds without the requisite permissions and sanctions are trying to flood the cotton seed market in Andhra Pradesh and asked the officials to be on the alert.</p> <p>He held a meeting with the officials on Monday morning and directed them to create awareness among the farmers. He also asked them to initiate strict action against those selling the spurious seeds. He also asked the officials to ensure that cotton crop inputs are available in sufficient quantities ahead of the farming season so that the farmers do not have to face any crunch. He also wanted the officials to speed up various rural works and ensure that drinking and irrigation water supply issues were addressed immediately</p>	

ICE cotton futures down 1 percent on producer selling	<p style="text-align: center;">Investing.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://in.investing.com/news/commodities-news/ice-cotton-futures-down-1-percent-on-producer-selling-1161729</p>
<p>ICE cotton futures fell 1 percent on Monday, on producer selling amid concerns of high world ending stocks excluding China.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The most active ICE cotton contract for July expiry settled down 0.92 cent, or 1.09 percent, at 83.70 cents per lb. * The contract traded within a range of 83.50 and 84.90 cents a lb. "There's not a lot of cotton left to sell on the July contract ... but we do think that we are seeing the debt contract that tends to bring some selling pressure," said Louis Rose, director of research and analytics at Tennessee-based Rose Commodity. * "We saw that in the recent reports of farmers who are willing to sell up around 80-81.50 cents." * Ending stocks outside of China are expected to rise for the third consecutive year, as per the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report released on Thursday. "Traders took profit ahead of the WASDE report and they may be waiting for a dip below the recent lows which was 83.50 to add some positions on, but we will still see a potential powder keg under this market with these mills still needing to fix about 5.5 million bales on July," Rose said. * Market participants are keeping a close watch on rain in Texas, the major cotton-growing region in the United States. * ICE cotton contract for December expiry fell 0.5 percent to 79.86 cents. * A broad area of low pressure, moving slowly northward across the eastern Gulf of Mexico, has a 30 percent chance of strengthening into a tropical cyclone in the next 48 hours, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said on Monday. Total futures market volume fell by 6,840 to 23,229 lots. Data showed total open interest fell 2,217 to 283,507 contracts in the previous session. * Certificated cotton stocks deliverable as of May 11 totaled 74,506 480-lb bales, up from 73,464 in the previous session. 	

Textiles Ministry to upgrade apparel training centres

The Tribune India

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/textiles-ministry-to-upgrade-apparel-training-centres/589410.html>

According to the request of apparel exporters, the Ministry of Textiles has approved to upgrade over 200 Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) across the country, including those in Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The upgrade includes setting up of state-of-the-art machinery and inclusion of new courses.

“Members of the industry told the textile ministry officials that the machinery at these centres was obsolete. Considering the competitiveness of exports, the industry needs highly skilled professionals. For this, these training centres should be upgraded and equipped with the latest machinery so that workforce can be trained on the modern machinery. Acting on the request of the exporters, the ministry officials has asked the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) to make project report for the upgrade. The ministry also agreed to add knitwear section in these training centres,” said a source present in the meeting, held recently, requesting anonymity.

India's WPI inflation for apparel rises 1.1% in April

Fibre 2 Fashion

<http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-news/india-s-wpi-inflation-for-apparel-rises-1-1-in-april-242191-newsdetails.htm>

India's annual rate of inflation, based on monthly wholesale price index (WPI), stood at 3.18 per cent for the month of April 2018 over same month of last year. The index for apparel increased by 1.1 per cent to 139.3 in April, according to the provisional data released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, ministry of commerce and industry.

The official WPI for all commodities (Base: 2011-12 = 100) for the month of April 2018 rose by 0.7 per cent to 116.8 from previous month's level of 116.0, the data showed.

The index for manufactured products (weight 64.23 per cent) for April 2018 rose by 0.3 per cent to 116.1 from 115.7 for the previous month. The index for 'Manufacture of Wearing Apparel' sub-group rose by 1.1 per cent to 139.3 from 137.8 for the previous month due to higher price of woven apparel, except fur apparel (1 per cent).

The index for 'Manufacture of Textiles' sub-group too rose by 0.3 per cent to 114.4 from 114.1 for the previous month due to higher price of viscose yarn, weaving and finishing of textiles, cotton yarn and synthetic yarn (1 per cent each). However, the price of manufacture of cordage, rope, twine and netting, woollen yarn and made-up textile articles (1 per cent each) declined.

The index for primary articles (weight 22.62 per cent) rose by 1.4 per cent to 129.2 from 127.4 for the previous month. The index for fuel and power (weight 13.15 per cent) also rose by 0.9 per cent to 98.9 from 98.0 for the previous month due to higher price of naphtha, petroleum coke, furnace oil, HSD, kerosene and petrol. However, the price of LPG declined

**Indian govt extends MEIS rate at 4%
beyond June 30**

Fibre 2 Fashion

<http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-news/indian-govt-extends-meis-rate-at-4-beyond-june-30-242183-newsdetails.htm>

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the ministry of commerce and industry, Government of India, has extended the incentive at 4 per cent under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) under Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20), beyond June 30, 2018. AEPC and the Tiruppur Exporters Association (TEA) have welcomed the announcement.

The MEIS incentive under Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20) was valid from November 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, as per earlier Public Notices issued by the DGFT.

Welcoming the extension of MEIS on garments and madeups beyond June 2018, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman HKL Magu said, "On behalf of the apparel export industry, AEPC gratefully acknowledges the support given by the Government by extending the MEIS scheme indefinitely beyond June, 2018."

"At present, the industry is going through a tough period with its competitiveness greatly eroded. This is reflected in the unprecedented month-on-month decline in the apparel exports every month after October 2017. The extension in MEIS scheme has given us a breather and sanction of our request to ensure that all embedded, non-reimbursed Central and state levies be refunded which will help in restoring the competitiveness of Indian exports. This will enable us to increase India's share in the world market and given our high employment intensity, create significant employment opportunities across India," Magu added.

"We have been requesting the Central Government to extend the validity period as the exporting units are struggling to sustain after reduction of duty drawback rate and ROSL after implementation of GST and also delay in getting GST refund. It was also emphasised personally for continuance of this lifeline support during the meeting with ministers, textiles secretary and other higher officials," said TEA president Raja M Shanmugham.

The continuance of MEIS rate at 4 per cent beyond June 30, 2018 is "a major relief to the exporting units who used to take up orders six months back normally," he added.

He hoped that the government would soon resolve other export related issues.

In fiscal year 2017-18 that ended on March 31, the value of apparel exports from Tiruppur was ₹24,000 crore, compared to previous year's exports of ₹26,000 crore.

The knitwear hub of Tiruppur accounts for 46 per cent of all knit garments exported from the country. Exports have fallen in the previous fiscal after registering growth for five years.

Biomass produced can be converted into wealth'

Researchers from various central and state institutions from six States converged for a brainstorming session at the ICAR's National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) in Tiruchi last week to discuss how best to utilise the enormous amount of biomass generated in banana cultivation by evolving technologies for its commercial exploitation.

In her opening remarks, S. Uma, Director, NRCB, observed that the enormous biomass produced in banana cultivation can be converted into wealth to provide supplementary income to farmers.

She suggested adopting development of clusters for mechanical extraction of banana fibre and development of fibre banks to cater to the demands of fibre industry and sustainable business models.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Uma observed that although banana fibre was being used in making handicrafts and fabrics, there was enormous scope for scaling up its applications and commercial utilisation.

The meet, she said, identified two research issues of how to improve the quality of machine extracted banana and promote their use in power looms and take them up for funding. Other applications of banana fibre in production of craters and pro-trays replacing plastics, sheets and composite boards were also discussed, she said.

The Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai, presented technologies for utilising fibre based products, and researchers from Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat, briefed on the replicable model for utilisation of banana pseudostem after bunch harvest. Representatives from the South India Textile Research Association explained the technologies they had developed for spinning and yarn making to make it suitable for blending with other fabrics in textile industry.

Researchers from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, highlighted the significance of fibre based nanofilm wraps for extending the shelf life of horticultural commodities in the shelves of super markets. The Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Coimbatore, showcased their machine developed for minimal processing of central core stem.

The Confederation of Indian Industry, Tiruchi, and Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited, have assured support for setting up of large scale fibre extraction units, a NRCB press release said.

A. P. Karuppaiah, President, and G. Ajeethan, Managing Director, TN Banana Producers Company Ltd., suggested utilisation of pseudostem as a new vista of business opportunity.

India to clock GDP growth of 7.7% in January-March:Nomura

The Hindu

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-to-clock-gdp-growth-of-77-in-january-marchnomura/article23879623.ece>

actors like rising oil prices as well as tighter financial conditions are expected to drag down growth rates.

Despite moderation in factory output growth in March, India's GDP is expected to grow by 7.7% in January-March, up from 7.2% in the preceding quarter, says a Nomura report.

According to the Japanese financial services major, despite the moderation in March, industrial production growth averaged 6.2% in the January-March period, up from 5.9% in Q4 (October-December).

The uptick in average industrial production growth, implies that the overall industrial activity strengthened in Q1 (January-March), "supporting our view of a pick-up in GDP growth to 7.7% year-on-year in Q1 from 7.2% in Q4", the report said.

The report further noted that India is expected to witness cyclical recovery led by both investment and consumption. However, factors like rising oil prices as well as tighter financial conditions are expected to drag down growth rates.

"While we remain optimistic on the near-term growth outlook, we expect the adverse impacts of rising oil prices and tighter financial conditions to slow growth further out," Nomura said.

According to official data, industrial output growth fell to a five-month low of 4.4% in March due to decline in capital goods production and deceleration in mining activity and power generation.

Industrial growth as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in 2017-18 too decelerated to 4.3% from 4.6% in the previous fiscal.

Cotton demand to increase in 2018-19'

The News

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/316794-cotton-demand-to-increase-in-2018-19>

'Punjab Agriculture Department has asked farmers to grow cotton on maximum area as its demand is set to increase in 2018-19 due to various factors.

According to a spokesman for Agriculture Department, due to climatic condition and flood cotton crop effected worldwide last year. India, USA, and China are searching out cotton market to import cotton. Moreover, Uzbekistan has set up ginning factories for cotton instead of exporting raw fiber. Prior to it, Uzbekistan was regarded one of the largest cotton raw exporter in the world.

China has cotton reserves but due to population growth, it is also looking for global cotton exporter. India has some issues with Monsanto Company regarding seed technology etc and also due to climatic change, its cotton reserves are not satisfactory for itself during this year. So, India will also look for exporter of cotton. Turkey is considering stopping imports of US cotton and explores new markets for its cotton requirements including from India, Pakistan,

Uzbekistan and Egypt, he observed. Turkey is considering stopping imports of cotton products from United States as its export of angular iron rods to the United States may be in trouble due to high tariff announced recently by US President Trump. Turkey imports cotton products amounting to \$519 million per year from US while its export of angular iron rods to the United States is around \$525 million.

All these measures are supporting cotton exports from Pakistan as have much bright chances to find a global market of cotton. The spokesman said cotton bumper crop during this financial year is top priority of Punjab government because whole economy depends on its high production.

He disclosed that Punjab government is also devising “2025 Cotton Mission” plan. For immediate relief of cotton growers, the government is providing approved varieties of cotton seed up to 50% subsidised rate and also providing subsidy voucher at Rs 700 per cotton bag to core area of cotton growers. More than Rs 14 million is being spent for provision of Agricultural Machinery to cotton growers.

<p>Farm Service Agency reminds cotton producers of ginning cost share program's May 31 deadline</p>	<p>HBJ.Com http://www.hpj.com/crops/farm-service-agency-reminds-cotton-producers-of-ginning-cost-share/article_f1fa6ec7-f597-54a4-9e5f-88a81403116b.html</p>
<p>USDA’s Farm Service Agency is reminding producers of the May 31 deadline for the Cotton Ginning Cost Share program. Through the program, cotton producers may receive a cost share payment, which is based on a producer’s 2016 cotton acres reported to FSA multiplied by 20 percent of the average ginning cost for each production region.</p> <p>FSA is mailing a postcard to remind eligible cotton producers of the May 31 deadline. FSA mailed pre-filled applications with this deadline information to eligible cotton producers in March when the original sign-up was announced.</p>	

<p>Bangladesh apparel workers receive lowest wage in Asia</p>	<p>Fibre 2 Fshion http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-news/bangladesh-apparel-workers-receive-lowest-wage-in-asia-242171-newsdetails.htm</p>
<p>Apparel workers in Bangladesh receive only \$67 (Tk 5,300) per month, the lowest wage compared to all other countries in Asia. The Garment Workers Coordination Parishad, which is a platform for readymade garment (RMG) workers comprising 52 organisations, has demanded that the minimum wage of the workers should be fixed at Tk 16,000 (\$189).</p> <p>The association made the demand during a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity. It also said that workers in India get \$168, while those in Cambodia get \$170. Workers in other countries like Pakistan, Vietnam and Myanmar receive \$124, \$154 and \$86, respectively.</p> <p>Kamrul Anam, joint convener of the association said that the workers should get Tk 16,000 as minimum wage with Tk 10,000 as basic salary to fulfil their monthly demands. He has demanded that the new salary be given from the month of August.</p>	

The leaders of the association have also asked for 10 per cent increment in salary every year, six months maternity leave and three months of apprenticeship period with basic salary.

10pc export incentive for cotton farmers

The Herald

<https://www.herald.co.zw/10pc-export-incentive-for-cotton-farmers/>

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has extended its export incentive to cotton farmers who are set to receive an additional 10 percent over and above proceeds for the crop delivered to registered private companies who provided them farmers with inputs.

Since 2016, the central bank has been paying out some incentives to tobacco farmers as a way of encouraging them to increase its production.

In a statement recently RBZ governor Dr John Mangudya said: "In preparation of the full swing cotton marketing season, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe wishes to advise cotton growers, cotton merchants and other stakeholders on the marketing and financing arrangements for the 2018 season.

"Cotton growers shall be paid an export incentive of 10 percent, which shall be paid on a monthly basis through bank accounts or mobile money services.

"In this regard, cotton merchants shall submit to Reserve Bank, the list of growers and their respective account details every month by the 7th of every month following the one for which the incentive is being claimed."

The Governor said in line with international best practice and the need to promote use of plastic money, cotton growers shall be paid in cash, a maximum of \$40 per each bale sold, with the balance being deposited into grower's bank account or mobile wallet account.

Furthermore, seed cotton shall continue to be purchased using offshore lines of credit and in this regard, cotton merchants are required to secure offshore lines of credit prior to purchasing seed cotton.

Dr Mangudya said for the avoidance of doubt, only those cotton merchants who were financed by Government and those who financed cotton production using their own resources shall buy seed cotton.

RBZ is paying out these incentives to ramp up production in the economy, which will result in increased exports and job creation.

Already textile company, David Whitehead Limited (DWTL), received a \$2 million capital injection in January this year, as such there has been a ready market for cotton farmers both locally and internationally.

DWTL had ceased operations about two years ago due to working capital constraints, but after being bailed out it now requires more cotton than before.

In a bid to improve productivity, over 400 000 cotton farmers have benefited from over \$62 million worth of inputs under the Presidential Input Support Scheme. Apart from RBZ incentives, it is believed that farmers who deliver

Grade A and B cotton would receive their adjusted amounts after being paid for Grade C yields.

Farmers who deliver or delivered Grade B cotton will receive 50c per kilogramme, while those who had Grade A will be paid 55c per kg. The Grade C cotton fetched 47c per kilogramme. This year's cotton marketing season opened on the 10th of this month. The development follows reports that the number of cotton farmers registered for the scheme had doubled from 37 000 to 77 000 this season.

Cotton output is expected to improve to around 170 000kg from 130 000 last year.