

Suryalakshmi to expand, add 26,000 spindles

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Hyderabad

SURYALAKSHMI Cotton Mills, which has interests in yarn, denim and garments, is setting up a spinning unit with a capacity of 26,000 spindles near Nagpur. This will add to the already installed capacity of 61,008 spindles. The commercial operational date (COD) for the unit will be in October this year, according to its managing director Paritosh K Agarwal.

The unit coming up near Nagpur will manufacture value added and fancy yarns such as ring, lycra, slub and compact. The Rs 131 crore capacity expansion is funded by long-term loans of Rs 95 crore and the remainder through equity and internal accruals, he said.

Yarn accounts for about 42.5 per cent of the revenues, denim for more than 50 per cent and garments about seven per cent of the revenues. For the year 2013-14, its net turnover was Rs 701.85 crore, down from Rs 705.44 crore in the previous year. Some of the demand for the yarn for making denim was being met from outside purchases. The company has 40 million metre annual installed capacity for denim in Maharashtra. It has a capacity to make 4,000 garments per day and set a target of Rs 1,000 crore turnover in three years.

"The company aims to increase the sales of fabric



Expansion mode

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both in domestic and overseas markets. It moved up the value chain to produce more high-margin products like stretch fabric and coated denim. The effort is to reduce the sales cycle and increase the offerings to the clients," said Agarwal.

It has a network of associates for the US market and has opened a market consultancy for Europe. Suryalakshmi counts Levis, Wrangler, Polo RL, DKNY, JC Penney, Walmart, Jones, UFO, Perry Ellis, Next, Marks and Spencers, C&A, Zara, George, Burtons and others as its clients across segments. It is partnering with Aditya Birla Nuvo, Landmark Group and others for sustainable business.

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YOUTH BAND

At 21, she's hit the high note

She may have just hit 21 but Kamakshi Khanna is already out there with her band, performing across the city and even in some parts of the country too. Music bands in India may have become too competitive yet Khanna is undeterred.

The singer/songwriter has independently formed a group called the Kamakshi Khanna Collective in 2013. "The collective was my idea. I was a bit hesitant at first, because new is always scary but I always wanted to know how my songs would sound with a band. I got the band on board for The Gig Week 2013 and ever since we've been working and gigging together," says Khanna.

The band has performed for WILLS India Fashion Week, Rock For Child Rights, Outlook Traveller Awards, The Business World Marketing Book Launch, NH7 the scene, Capsule X Festival, DIY DAY and at venues like Turquoise cottage and Hard Rock Café.

"I have also performed a few acoustic gigs at venues like Lodhi Garden Restaurant, The Area 79 festival at Blue Frog and The Olive. Very recently, we launched our Debut EP 'Much Mellow' at The Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre on the 28 December, 2014," adds Khanna.

The young artiste brought together musicians like Tarana Marwah on keyboards, Pranav Pahiwa on guitars, Ishaan Gandhi on drums and Anugrah Pandey on bass in order to perform the songs composed and written by her. The aim is to make music that speaks to and stays with people. The genre is chamber/baroque pop. She has worked with several choirs such as The Mozart Choir Of India, an initiative by Pt Ravi

Shankar and Austrian Grammy-winning composer Gerald Wirth, Artistes Unlimited, The Yellow Brick Project and has worked as a backup vocalist of India's leading band 'Euphoria' for a period of over

two years.

Khanna says, "My melodies were inspired by situations I stumbled into in my life. Seeing them turn into songs is a remarkable feeling. For me, quiet is the new loud and the

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KAMAKSHI KHANNA



Kamakshi Khanna

feeling that you get when you listen to a simple, mellow tune that speaks to you, is large and truly has much too it."

Currently the collective has around five originals and a few covers and Khanna is 'set to work towards making a fully original album.'

"Being an independent musician in India is a struggle and investment. And for me the biggest hardship was to find the motivation to do that. There are very less external motivating factors but what really pushed me to do this was a voice inside me constantly telling me to create something of my own and the faith and belief that I have in my songs," says Khanna.

On 28 December, 2014 at the India Habitat Center, Khanna participated in the opening act of Mildly Offensive Content, Delhi's first Slam Poetry group, a bunch of poets belonging to different parts of the world, seeking to spread the art of Spoken Word all across the city. They performed a wide range of poetry, from politics to extremely personal accounts, from dealing with mysteries of the world to much more. To listen to songs from Kamakshi Khanna collective, visit: <https://soundcloud.com/kamakshi-khanna/sets/much-mellow>.

Ruchira Talapatra

Business Line, Delhi

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Limited buying holds cotton steady

Rajkot, January 5

Cotton prices traded unchanged on limited buying by domestic mills. *Kapas* or raw cotton was remained steady as lower ginning activity in Gujarat. Export demand was almost nil. Due to fall in price during last week, farmers have restricted supply and as a result cotton arrival in Gujarat has declined from 60,000 bales (of 170 kg) to 55,000 bales. About 1.80 lakh bales arrived in India on Monday. Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton stood at ₹32,500-750 per candy of 356 kg. *Kapas* was ₹810-835 for a *maund* of 20 kg. Gin delivery *kapas* was at ₹835-845. Cottonseed traded at ₹355-365. OUR CORRESPONDENT

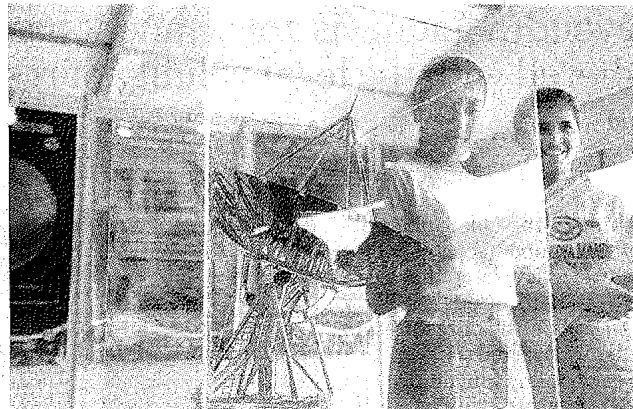
Bt cotton not to blame for farm distress: scientists

Vinaya Deshpande

MUMBAI: Farmer suicides in Maharashtra's Vidarbha area and other parts of the country have nothing to do with Bt cotton, scientists said at the Indian Science Congress here on Monday.

"There is a lot of negative public perception about Bt crops... Even a paper in *Nature* says linking these two [Bt Cotton and farmer suicides] is our imagination," said Dr. Anupam Verma, INSA [Indian National Science Academy] Senior Scientist at the Indian Agriculture Research Institute, speaking on 'GM crops — use of modern technology in agriculture.'

Some scientists said there were interesting research prospects in the field of biotechnology. "We could be extracting oil from leaves, instead of seeds. Imagine what it would mean for us, when our government is spending over Rs. 60,000 crore on oil import," Dr. Deepak Pental, former Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University, said. "We can produce oil indigenously if we use Bt. But unfortunately, it is caught



School children at the 'Pride of India Expo' in Mumbai on Monday. — PHOTO: PAUL NORONHA

up in a debate taken up by the Left and now supported by the neo-right." Dr. Pental is an award-winning genetic scientist who has been credited with major breakthroughs in hybrid seed science.

In the recent past, there had been a sharp increase in the acreage of GM crops in the country, and over 90 per cent of the cotton cultivated was GM crop, scientists said. They refuted arguments about monopolisation and said there were over 1000 Bt

Cotton hybrids available in the country. Dr. Verma referred to Project Sunshine in Gujarat and explained how Bt Cotton had powered the growth in agriculture in Gujarat. He said GM Maize had taken nutrition to Adivasi farmers.

The session, attended by over 100 delegates, including students, farmers and scientists, didn't have a single critical or dissenting paper on GM crops.

The scientists called for a clear policy decision by the

Central government on genetically modified crops. Some scientists questioned the need for stringent regulations. The need of the hour was more of confined field trials. "How will there be trust among the people if there is not enough data for analysis?" asked renowned scientist and Padma Bhushan awardee R. Paroda.

Scientists said the ambiguous policy relating to GM crops had caused disillusionment, and it was keeping young researchers from venturing into the field.

Heated debate

A debate ensued after a journalist questioned the basis for selection of scientists to present the papers. He wondered why there was not a single critical voice. He claimed scientists were fudging data and not giving out clear information about the adverse impact of GM crops. He accused them of fear-mongering about food insecurity.

But while one scientist answered some of the questions, a few others called the journalist 'neo-leftist' and

claimed there was no scientific basis for his arguments. "We have created a gene bank with over four lakh samples. It has been acknowledged as one of the best biodiversity programmes in the world. We have understood the need of our farmers and have helped them flourish. We have doubled cotton production and have reduced the load of pesticides. We are now exporting cotton worth \$3 billion. But it is people like you who have created policy paralysis," Mr. Paroda told the journalist.

He later acknowledged that there was a need for post-release monitoring system.

Alternative route

Dr. Pental said a country had to make choices and take an alternative course of action if it did not want genetically modified crops. "We should go ahead and say we don't want to research in the field of GM technology. In that case, we have to invest in alternatives.

"For example, Europe is investing hugely in new generation pesticides. But we are still using old pesticides," he said.

MINT, Delhi

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ARVIND

BUY



Arvind Ltd is the largest manufacturer of denim fabric in India. It has also diversified into woven, where it manufactures shirting fabrics mainly for domestic market, and into garmenting, wherein it manufactures ready-made garments for top global brands. The overall textile vertical is doing well.

EMKAY GLOBAL

टेक्सटाइल एक्सपोर्ट पर मंडरा रहा बड़ा संकट, यूएस ने कहा बंद करो सब्सिडी

एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली

रुपए के उतार-चढ़ाव और कमजोर डिमांड के चलते जहां एक तरफ टेक्सटाइल एक्सपोर्ट सेक्टर मुश्किलों में है। वहीं, अब टेक्सटाइल और गारमेंट के एक्सपोर्ट पर नया संकटों का बादल मंडरा रहा है। टेक्सटाइल और गारमेंट सेक्टर को मिलने वाली सब्सिडी जल्द ही समाप्त हो सकती है। इसके लिए यूएस और तुर्क ने भी डब्ल्यूटीओ से कहा है कि भारतीय टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के एक्सपोर्ट को मिलने वाली छूट समाप्त हो। गौरतलब है कि निर्यात के मामले में टेक्सटाइल और गारमेंट भारत का चौथा सबसे बड़ा ग्रुप प्रोडक्ट है। ऐसे में यदि सब्सिडी समाप्त होती है तो निर्यात को झटका पहुंचेगा। इस मामले पर वाणिज्य मंत्रालय भी कह चुका है कि नई विदेश व्यापार नीति के तहत वह टेक्सटाइल निर्यात में जारी छूट को समाप्त कर सकती है।

तयों खत्म करनी पड़ेगी एक्सपोर्ट सब्सिडी

डब्ल्यूटीओ एग्रीमेंट के मुताबिक विकासशील देशों जिनकी प्रति कैपिटा इनकम सालाना 1000 डॉलर से कम हो और उस देश का कोई उत्पाद लगातार दो साल तक जिसकी वैश्विक निर्यात में हिस्सेदारी 3.25 फीसदी तक हो जाए। तो आठ साल बाद एक्सपोर्ट सब्सिडी खत्म कर देनी चाहिए। यूएस ने कहा है कि भारतीय टेक्सटाइल एंड क्लोथिंग एक्सपोर्टर्स 2005 और 2006 में इस स्तर को पार कर चुका है। इसलिए एक्सपोर्ट सब्सिडी 2015 में इन उत्पादों से हटना चाहिए। साथ ही यदि किसी देश की इनकम लेवल ऊंची है तो इस तरह की सब्सिडी बिल्कुल नहीं होनी चाहिए। भारत टेक्सटाइल और क्लोथिंग एक्सपोर्ट को फोकस मार्केट स्कीम, फोकस प्रोडक्ट स्कीम, मार्केट लिंकड स्कीम, एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन कैपिटल गुड्स स्कीम, प्री और पोस्ट शिपमेंट पर इंटररेस्ट सबवेंशन और स्पेशल इकोनॉमिक जोन में टैक्स के तहत सब्सिडी दे रहा है।

टेक्सटाइल सेगमेंट निर्यात में वैश्विक हिस्सेदारी को लेकर मतभेद

टेक्सटाइल सेक्टर की वैश्विक हिस्सेदारी 3.5 फीसदी से ज्यादा हुई है या नहीं। इस पर मतभेद है। फेडरेशन ऑफ एक्सपोर्ट ऑर्गेनाइजेशन के डायरेक्टर जनरल अजय सहाय ने बताया कि भारतीय टेक्सटाइल सेक्टर की निर्यात के तहत वैश्विक हिस्सेदारी 2008 में तय फीसदी से ज्यादा हुई थी। इस लिहाज से 2018 में आठ साल पूरे होंगे। भारतीय टेक्सटाइल और गारमेंट सेक्टर के जरिए 3.5 करोड़ लोगों को रोजगार मिला है। निर्यात में इसकी कुल भागीदारी 12 फीसदी है।

2018 में सब्सिडी खत्म करने के संकेत लिए सरकार ने



कॉमर्स मिनिस्ट्री ने कहा कि 2015-20 नई विदेश व्यापार नीति के बीच अवधि में टेक्सटाइल और अपैरेल सेक्टर से सब्सिडी 2018 तक हटा सकती है। भारत डब्ल्यूटीओ के प्रति किए गए करार को लेकर प्रतिबद्ध है। सरकार निर्यात से ज्यादा उत्पादन के लिए सेक्टर को सब्सिडी या सहायता जारी रख सकती है। क्योंकि डब्ल्यूटीओ निर्यात को सीधे सब्सिडी दिए जाने के खिलाफ है लेकिन उत्पादन के लिए नहीं।

टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री को होगा काफी नुकसान

सूत्रों के मुताबिक भारत डब्ल्यूटीओ से प्रोडक्ट की परिभाषा और सब्सिडी अवधि के लिए सर्टिफिकेशन मांग कर रहा है। वहीं, अभी सरकार के ही बीच कुछ का कहना है कि टेक्सटाइल सेक्टर को और मदद की जरूरत है। हालांकि, उत्पादन के लिए सब्सिडी दिए जाने पर सस्ते आयात के बढ़ने की उम्मीद है जिससे स्थानीय मैन्यूफैक्चरर्स को काफी नुकसान होगा। कंफेडरेशन ऑफ टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के सेक्रेटरी जनरल डीके नायर ने कहा कि यदि सरकार अंतरराष्ट्रीय दबाव में इस साल सब्सिडी बंद कर देती है तो तो टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री को काफी नुकसान हो सकता है। घरेलू कॉटन की कीमतें अपने उच्चतम स्तर पर हैं। उत्पादकों को प्रोडक्ट के जल्द से जल्द सप्लाय करने में काफी मुश्किलें उठानी पड़ रही हैं।