

## *Rs 200 Crore Technology Mission on Technical Textiles Launched*

### **CABINET AGREES TO RE-START TECHNOLOGY UPGRADATION FUND SCHEME (TUFS) FOR TEXTILE INDUSTRY**

**NEW DELHI, January 20, 2011.** The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile industry will be re-started by the end of January, 2011, **Ms. Rita Menon, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles**, announced here today. Ms. Menon said that, “the Union Cabinet is expected to give its approval to revive the scheme that has been on the back burner for lack of funds.”

The announcement was made at the formal launch of the Technology Mission on Technical Textiles which was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Ministry of Textiles.

While formally inaugurating the Technology Mission in the presence of textile industry representatives, Ms. Menon said, “the Mission comprised two mini-missions which would run for 5 years (2010-11 to 2014-15) with an outlay of Rs 200 crore. The technical textiles industry continues to suffer from problems, such as lack of basic infrastructure in terms of testing facilities, inadequate market development support, inadequate skilled manpower, lack of R&D, insufficient regulatory measures and an absence of specifications and standards.”

The Technology Mission will be managed at the national level by an Empowered Committee chaired by the Textiles Secretary. The committee will comprise representatives of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and FICCI.

Ms. Menon said, “under Mini-Mission-I, the Government of India would look into issues like standardization, creation of common testing facilities with national and international accreditation, indigenous development of prototypes and setting up of a resource centre with IT infrastructure. An important aspect of this mini-mission would be the establishment of four new Centres of Excellence which would be endowed with Rs 25 crore each for the provision of infrastructure support to the technical textile manufacturers. These centres of excellence will focus on non-wovens, composites, indutech and sportech.”

Ms. Menon confirmed that her ministry had started inviting expressions of Interest for setting up the centres of excellence and added that the Technology Mission would undertake upgradation of the existing centres of excellence which, at present, do not have facilities for development of prototypes, incubation centres for products of their segments and provision for recurring expenditure for appointment of experts.

Ms. Menon said that Mini-Mission-II was aimed at providing support for the development of the domestic and export market for technical textiles.

This mission would provide support for business start-ups as technical textiles was a new area and entrepreneurs found it difficult to invest in the sector due to lack of technological

knowledge, raw material and processes. To move this initiative forward, a panel would be appointed for the centres of excellence, associations, and institutes; independent consultants would be appointed by the Textiles Ministry. The panel members would help prepare project reports and assist potential entrepreneurs. A sum of Rs 3 crore has been set apart for this purpose.

Ms. Menon announced that the mission would allocate Rs 5 crore for the engagement of consultants who would be required to identify the necessary regulatory changes along with international best practices. The Mini-Mission would also provide funds to support workshops to disseminate knowledge among stakeholders, for which an allocation of Rs 5 crore has been made.

The mission has proposed an outlay of Rs 11 crore to provide support for Contract R&D through IITs, textile research associations and textile institutes.

The inaugural session of the meeting was also addressed by Mr. Sujit Gulati, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Mr. A B Joshi, Textiles Commissioner; Mr. Shishir Jaipuria, Chairman, FICCI Committee on Textiles & Technical Textiles & Managing Director, Ginni Filaments Ltd; Mr. Shekhar Agarwal, Co-Chair & Managing Director, Maral Overseas Ltd. and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Director General, FICCI.

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