

# Textile ministry unveils 100-day agenda

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The textile ministry is set to inaugurate two integrated textile parks under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) and constitute a working group which would lay the groundwork for National Fibre Policy in the coming three months.

Under the SITP, the government provides for infrastructure facilities for setting up of textile units. The two integrated textile parks to be inaugurated at Surat and Visakhapatnam, respectively, will involve government investment of Rs 40 crore each.

Constituting a working group for National Compre-

hensive Fibre Policy, a constant industry demand, would be the first substantial initiative by the ministry towards setting up the policy, said Textile Minister Dayanidhi Maran.

The policy would be aimed at ensuring a proper balance in policy structure between the interests of producers and consumers of various fibers in the country.

Maran, while spelling out the 100-day agenda of the textile ministry, said steps will also be taken to expand the coverage of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) so that the decentralised sectors like powerloom and small-scale sector can reap the benefits in a comprehensive manner.



However, the initiatives will be taken within the limited budget allocation towards the scheme which is at around Rs 1,100 crore per year.

The minister also stated there are signs that the indus-

try is recovering and that exports will pick up in September this year. "There are firm indications that the overall industry is picking up. There has been a 6.7 per cent increase in fabric production in the April,

compared with the corresponding period last year," added Maran.

Regarding textile exports, the ministry plans to increase exposure of Indian exporters to alternative markets like Japan, Australia and South Africa through various export promotion schemes in order to reduce dependence of exporters on traditional markets of the US and the EU.

The 100-day agenda will also focus on operationalising the seven modernised mills of National Textile Corporation and achieving an additional allocation of Rs 1,660 crore for Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to meet out expenses owing to minimum support price (MSP) operations.