



Unit - 4

The Commercial Aspect



Chapter- 11:.....

An Overview of Textile Industry

11.1 INTRODUCTION

Textile industry in India is providing to one of the most basic needs of people and therefore holds importance with sustained growth for improving quality of life. India is rich in terms of raw material and hence has the ability to deliver the finished products with higher and substantial amount of value addition at every level of production. Indian textile industry is just next to agriculture in terms of employment generation and size of the industry. It accounts for about 12-13% of producing value added articles and contributes for about 1/3rd of gross exports earnings.

Textile industry produces a large variety of products, ranging from apparel, home furnishings, upholsteries, carpet to floor coverings. *Products like high fashion fabrics, designer's garments, and home fashion products like bed linens, kitchen linens, bath linens, beach linens, curtains and floor coverings are all available across Indian market* as shown in **Image 22-A**. Textile products are sold in domestic as well in overseas markets. Textile industry consists of both handlooms and Powerlooms. The Handloom industry has adopted various measures and techniques to provide high quality and eco-friendly products to the world market. Mills sectors and other organized sector have all upgraded in terms of technology. It has started using all high end machineries with the aid of digitization, electronics and computerization.



Image - 22 A

Examples of Home Fashion products like curtains, cushion covers, table cloth, aprons, napkins, and hand gloves are shown in the images above and below



Image - 22 B

11.2 SEGMENTS OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Indian textile industry can be divided into following segments:

- ❖ **Cotton Textiles:** Second largest cotton and cellulosic fibres producing country in the world.
- ❖ **Silk Textiles:** India is the second largest producer of silk and contributes about 18% to the total world raw silk production.
- ❖ **Woollen Textiles:** India has 3rd largest sheep population in the world, having 6.15 crores sheep, producing 45 million kg of raw wool, and accounting for 3.1% of total world wool production. India ranks 6th amongst clean wool producer countries and 9th amongst greasy wool producers.
- ❖ **Man-Made Textile:** India is the fourth largest county in synthetic fibres/yarns globally.
- ❖ **Jute and Coir based Textiles:** India is the largest producer and second largest exporter of the jute goods. Image 23 indicates various segments of textile industries spread across all over India.



11.3 HANDLOOM AND POWER LOOM TEXTILE INDUSTRY:

The power loom industry has grown up from handloom sector traditionally with inherent technical knowhow passed on from forefather and is being continued in many of the clusters. The 19.44 lakh looms in the decentralized powerloom sector are spread over 4.3 lakh units with an average holding of a little over 4 looms per unit. Thus, the sector largely comprises of very tiny units with a majority of loom holdings in the range of 1 to 8. Decentralized powerloom sector is consistently meeting out the need of the fabric required for garment sector for export as well as the domestic market. The share of the decentralized sector is 62% of the total fabric production in the country.

The Handloom industry mainly exports fabrics, bed linen, table linen, toilet and kitchen linen, towels, curtains, cushions and pads, tapestries and upholstery's, carpets and floor coverings, etc. The Handloom industry has adopted various measures and techniques to provide high quality and eco-friendly products to the world market.

In the world of handlooms, there are Madras checks from Tamil Nadu, Ikats from Andhra and Orissa, Tie and Dye from Gujarat and Rajasthan; Brocades from Banaras and Kanchipuram, Jacquards from Uttar Pradesh, Daccai from West Bengal, and Phulkari from Punjab.

The Surat "Tanchoi", based on a technique of satin weaving with the extra weft floats that are absorbed in the fabric itself has been reproduced in Varanasi. Besides its own traditional weaves, there is hardly any style of weaving that Varanasi cannot reproduce. The Baluchar technique of plain woven fabric brocaded with untwisted silk thread, which began in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, has taken root in Varanasi. Their craftsmen have also borrowed the jamdani technique.

In the department of Woollen textiles, Woollen weaves are no less subtle. The Kashmiri weaver is known the world over for his Pashmina and Shahtoosh shawls. The shawls are unbelievably light and warm.

The states of Kashmir and Karnataka are known for their mulberry silk. India is the only country in the world producing all four commercially known silks - mulberry, tasser (tussore), eri and muga, now gaining immense popularity in the U.S.A. and Europe. Assam is the home of eri and muga silk. Muga is durable and its natural tones of golden yellow and rare sheen become more lustrous with every wash. The ikat technique in India is commonly known as patola in Gujarat, bandha in Orissa, pagdubandhu, buddavasi and chitki in Andhra Pradesh.

11.4 BASIC STRUCTURE OF INDIA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Textile industry in India comprises of mostly of small-scale, non-integrated spinning, weaving, finishing, and apparel-making units.

❖ **Integrated Composite Mills:**

Composite Mills are relatively large-scale industry and are sometime called vertically integrated Mills and will have most advance technology base for manufacturing the goods. In this kind of mills the process normally starts from spinning, dyeing, weaving, finishing and upto garmenting level. In India, however, these types of mills now account for about only 3 percent of output in the textile sector. About 276 composite mills are now operating in India, most owned by the public sector. The well-known examples are Arvind Mills in Ahmedabad, Bombay Dyeing in Mumbai, Raymonds, etc.

❖ **Spinning unit:**

Spinning is the process of converting cotton or manmade fibre into yarn to be used for weaving and knitting.

❖ **Weaving and Knitting unit:**

Weaving and knitting converts cotton, manmade, or blended yarns into woven or knitted fabrics. India's weaving and knitting sector remains highly fragmented, small-scale, and labour-intensive. This sector consists of about 3.9 million handlooms, 380,000 "powerloom" enterprises that operate about 1.7 million looms, and just 137,000 looms in the various composite mills.

❖ **Finishing unit:**

Fabric finishing is actually a wet processing unit which includes dyeing, printing, washing and other cloth preparations prior to the manufacture of fabric. Overall, about 2,500 processors are operating in India, including about 2,000 independent units and 220 units that are integrated with spinning, weaving, or knitting units.

❖ **Apparel Manufacturing unit:**

Apparel clothing is produced by about 75,000 small-scale units classified as domestic manufacturers, manufacturer exporters, and fabricators.

Summary:

Indian textile industry is just next to agriculture in terms of employment generation and size of the industry. In this chapter the student is given an overview of the Textile Industry in India. The Indian Textile industry is divided into various segments depending on its raw material production capacity. It is also divided in to Handloom and Power loom sector depending on the type of fabric being produced and its requirement. This industry is further divided based upon the end product that it supplies. The student in this chapter is made aware of these various sectors and segments of the textile industry.