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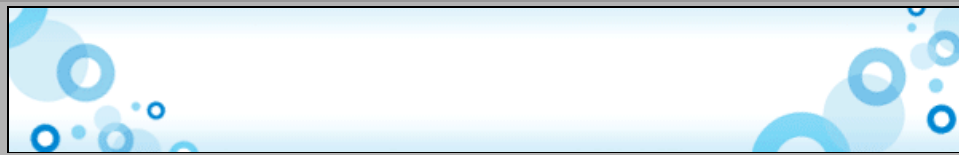
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India caps cotton yarn and cotton exports

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 Source:Journal for Asia on Textile & Apparel
 (Seshadri Ramkumar)

On December 1, the Government of India capped cotton [yarn](#) exports from India to 720,000 metric tons (MT).



The Government of India has capped cotton yarn exports from India to 720,000 MT (Image souce: Central Textiles)

The Indian textile sector contributes 4% to the Indian GDP. The past few months have been highly politically charged with regard to the Indian cotton and cotton textiles scenario. Every segment of the textile has been trying its level best to protect its raw material supply. These include the spinners, power loom weavers, handloom weavers, [dyeing](#) and finishing units. Earlier the government capped raw cotton exports to 5.5 million bales (170 kg each).

On December 1, the Government of India has limited cotton [yarn](#) exports to 720,000 MT in order to protect the interest of weavers. Regulating the exports of cotton and cotton [yarns](#) has been a subject of contention and debate every year. In September, India constituted a Cotton [Yarn](#) Advisory Board, which is charged to come up with cotton [yarn](#) balance sheet for the country. So far, this board has had two sittings which resulted in the cotton [yarn](#) balance sheet for the country for 2010-11. According to the board, for the financial year 2010-11 (April to March), India will produce 3.46 million MT of cotton [yarn](#). The domestic demand will be 2.656 million MT. Allowable export will be 720,000 MT. This exportable limit is the highest in three years, according to a notification from the Office of the Textile Commissioner, Government of India.

The government launched an online system to register cotton [yarn](#) exports on November 20 in Chennai, the capital of the State of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is the home for 60% of the total spinning mills in India. This state has about 1931 spinning mills. India has around 3,200 spinning mills and investments are still continuing in the spinning sector. The cotton and cotton [yarn](#) situation has received the highest political attention with the intervention of the Chief Ministers of the State of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. As the textile industry is a big bread basket for several million people in India and particularly in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, with the election to the state legislature coming in 2011, the textile situation is getting fired up. On December 2, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wrote to the Prime Minister of India asking him to immediately suspend cotton exports till domestic mills' requirements are met and to cap cotton [yarn](#) exports. He has also asked for an export duty on cotton [yarns](#).

Indian spinners have so far received export contracts for 779,816 MT and have shipped 458,047 MT. Indian spinning mill associations are asking the government to allow the export to fulfill the contract amount received so far. According to export regulations, spinners have 45 days to ship cotton [yarns](#) from the date of registration. This means, they will have until mid-January 2011, to export the remaining 261,953 MT. This will lead to the fullest capacity utilization by the spinning mills for the next 45 days and is an uphill challenge according to some industry sources as there will be

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