

## Quality Control Orders (QCO) On Fibres

### Why in news?

Recently, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued new Quality Control Orders for cotton, polyester and viscose.

### What is the status of India's textile industry?

- **Share in global trade** - India has a 4% share of the global trade in textiles and apparel.
- **GDP** -The textile sector accounts for more than 2% of the total GDP.
- **Employment** - 2nd largest provider of employment in India, after agriculture.
- India is the world's largest producer of cotton.
- **Export** -The export of textiles and apparel during April-January 2021-22 is USD 34.459 billion.
- The US is the single largest market for India's textile and apparel exports.
- **Import** - India imports annually 50,000 - 60,000 tonnes of viscose fibre and its variants such as Modal and Tencel LF.
- In the case of *polyester* almost 90,000 tonnes of polyester fibre and 1.25 lakh tonnes of POY (*Polyester Partially Oriented Yarn*) are imported annually.



### What is Quality Control Order (QCO)?

- **Aim** - To control import of sub-quality and cheaper items and to ensure that customers get quality products.
- **Ministries** - QCOs are issued by various Ministries (Regulators) under the Central Government depending upon the products being regulated through the Order, after having stakeholder consultations.
- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** -For implementation of the provisions of QCO, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) acts as the certification authority.
- **New mandate of QCOs** - International fibres manufacturers who supply to India are also mandated to get a certificate from the Bureau of Indian Standards.

| Polyester                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Viscose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthetic fiber and a type of polymeric material</li> <li>• Made from petroleum</li> <li>• Durable, moisture-resistant, and it retains shape. It is generally non-biodegradable</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-synthetic fiber, which is a version of rayon</li> <li>• Made from wood pulp and is used as substitute for silk</li> <li>• Absorbent, lightweight, breathable, soft, and maintains shape as well</li> </ul> |

## What are the challenges?

- Getting the certificate from the BIS is expensive for importers.
- Indian textile units will lose orders from importer.
- Indian textile units will lose their international market customers.
- BIS officials have to visit the manufacturing unit abroad before issuing the certificate and this process is complex.
- Disrupt the established supply chain over the years.

## What is the way forward?

- Import of speciality fibres that are used as blends with other fibres should be allowed without restriction.
- Any overseas applicant for the BIS certificate should get it without delay after inspection.
- Several textile units using lower grade fibres should be covered under the QCO.

### Quick facts

#### HS (Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System) code

- HS Stands for Harmonized System and it is a *6 digit* identification code.
- HS is developed by the *World Customs Organization (WCO)*.
- It comprises more than 5,000 commodity groups.
- Custom officers use HS Code to clear every commodity that enters or crosses any international border.
- Over 98 % of the merchandise in international trade is classified in terms of the HS.
- The Harmonized System is governed by "*The International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System*".

#### Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- BIS is the *National Standard Body of India* established under the *BIS Act 2016*.
- BIS is working under the aegis of *Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution*.
- BIS has its Headquarters at *New Delhi* and has 5 Regional Offices.
- Aim - Harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.
- BIS provides for safe reliable quality goods through standardization, certification and testing.

## References

1. [The Hindu | Quality Control Order](#)
2. [Bureau Of Indian Standards | About BIS](#)



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