**High Commissioner Dr. Rajesh Ranjan’s speech on the occasion of**

**India Networking Programme on Tuesday, 6th August 2019**

* **Mr. S. Hari Shankar, Chairman, India ITME Society and other members from India ITME Society**
* **Mr. Krishna Chinniah, Chairman, BTCA**
* **Ms. Banusi Mbaakanyi, Vice Chairperson, BTCA and other members from BTCA**
* **Other Businessmen who are suited in Botswana**
* **Media personnel**
* **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Morning**

**Dumela,**

1. I am very delighted today to be with you all on the event to enhance the collaboration between India and Botswana in the textile sector.
2. I would like to congratulate Botswana Textile & Clothing Association and India International Textile Machinery Exhibitions Society for organising this event and signing of MoU for mutual beneficial cooperation in the field of textile machinery, parts and accessories manufacturing industries.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

1. Textile is a sector that works like a bridge between the agriculture sector and industry. Be it cotton cultivation or silk production, the end product for both broadly depends on the textile sector. Textile sector provides the market for the raw material produced by the hard work of farmers. In a way, textile sector span over both agriculture and industry.
2. Indian Textiles and Apparel is a USD 100 billion plus industry providing direct employment to over 45 million people and accounts for 14% of India’s Industrial production. In terms of capacity, the industry has second largest vertically integrated textiles production base in the world after China. Given the positives of the demographic dividend like the emerging tendency to spend more on life style products and the spread of organised retailing and e-retailing to smaller towns and even rural areas, the demand for textile products in the domestic market is expected to grow substantially in the coming years and also in the long run.
3. Among the textile industry value chain, comprising spinning, weaving, processing and garmenting, the spinning and Apparel sectors attained considerable strength in recent years.
4. With a 12% CAGR in domestic sales, the textile and apparel industry should reach a production level of USD 250 billion by 2022-25 from the current level of about USD 100 billion for the domestic market. Similarly with a 15% CAGR in exports, India would be exporting about USD 185 billion of textile and apparel by 2024-25. Considering the targeted growth in exports, India should be able to double the share of the global textile and apparel trade from the present level of 5%. India can achieve higher growth rates of finished products like apparel, homes furnishing, and technical textiles. This would maximise employment generation and value creation within the country and the fulfilment of the Prime Minister’s Vision of “Make of India”. In the process, investment of about USD 180 billion to USD 150 billion would take place and about 25 million additional jobs would get created.
5. The increasing population in both countries with growing purchasing capacity is the major driver in this sector. Rising female workforce will increase the consumption of textile items, the increased investment in rural areas has a direct impact on consumption growth.
6. Today, there is a demand for products with zero carbon footprint. Holistic lifestyle has become a buzzword. The market for Organic Dyes, clothes and fabrics made of organic products is growing. Our effort should be to innovate in organic products.
7. India and Botswana are countries with diverse culture, fashion and traditions. This diversity is clearly reflected in the clothing present in different regions. We should catalogue and map our clothing diversity and clearly earmark strengths and specialties
8. We should also formulate an action plan to study and map the requirements of people in both countries and monitor new trends in fashion and textiles in these areas on a real time basis. This would enable us to channelize our energies in meeting those requirements and give a boost to our cooperation.
9. I hope this event will help familiarize Botswana and Indian investors for the vast opportunities associated with the sector for collaboration. This will help establish India as a valued partner for Botswana. I hope, it will go a long way in realizing India's inherent potential to become one of the most significant textile and apparel sourcing and investment destinations.
10. I understand that over the next two days, you would have an opportunity to interact with potential investors for collaboration in textile. I am sure you will find these interactions interesting and informative.

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Let me conclude by wishing you a very successful and productive days ahead in Gaborone.

**Thank You All**

**Pula**