

## **US textile industry presses for China quotas in more areas**

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Washington- The US textile industry asked the government Thursday to impose quotas on four types of Chinese imports amid a standoff between Washington and Beijing on apparel and fiber trade.

The American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition announced the latest so-called "safeguard" petitions in addition to series of requests filed last week.

The latest move seeks limits on wool suits, synthetic fiber coats, cheesecloth and polyester filament.

The combined value of US imports for the categories is 1.78 billion dollars so far this year, with imports from China accounting for 487 million of that total, the group said.

AMTAC executive director Auggie Tantillo said the group would be "aggressively" using the safeguard process under China's World Trade Organization accession agreement to limit the damage to US industry unless Beijing and Washington reach an agreement that curbs imports.

"The US textile industry will keep filing safeguard petitions until all categories of interest to us are covered or the Chinese agree to a reasonable comprehensive agreement," he said.

"So far, China has not been serious about negotiating a deal. Regardless of whether a comprehensive agreement with China is reached, we intend to take all steps necessary to ensure that China's ability to disrupt the market is curtailed."

The United States wants an overarching agreement to limit Chinese textile exports, which have rocketed since global quotas on the trade were lifted on January 1.

Over the past seven months, Chinese apparel exports to the United States have surged by 850 million items, an average increase of 627 percent, US textile groups said Thursday as they applied for new government safeguards.

Nearly 400,000 US textile and apparel manufacturing jobs -- 38 percent of the total -- have been lost since 2001, primarily due to a flood of subsidized Chinese clothes, industry and labor groups say.

The US government announced restrictions on imports of two types of Chinese products September 1 -- brassieres and synthetic filament fabric. It extended until October 1 a review on whether quotas are needed on another four types of Chinese textiles: cotton and man-made fiber sweaters; cotton and man-made fibre dressing gowns and robes; men's and boys' wool trousers; and knit fabric.