

Sir, if you call in a proper way, then we would also like to speak something.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You also do not join. You can do it after the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record if you are speaking like this. after the Question Hour, you speak. It will go on record.

11.08 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Production of Cloth

*301. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of cloth in handloom, powerloom and mill sectors during each of the last three years, sector-wise;

(b) whether there is any declining trend in the production of cloth during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, sector-wise; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIG.VENKAT SWAMY):(a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The production of cloth in handloom, powerloom and mill sectors during each of the last three years:

Year	Mill Sector	Handloom Sector	Powerloom Sector*	Mill. Sq. metres
				Total
1989-90	2667	3924	14007	20598
1990-91	2589	4295	16044	22928
1991-92	2376	4123	16089	22588
1992-93 (Est.)	2255	4255	16630	23140

*including hosiery.

(b) No, Sir. The production of cloth has been steadily increasing. However, there was slight decline only during the year 1991-92.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures given by the hon. Minister in his statement show that the total production

of cloth has been increasing. But the production in the mill sector has been continuously decreasing. From 2667 million Sq. Meters in 1989-90, it has come down to 2255 million sq. Meters in 1992-93. I would like to know the reasons for the reduction in production in the Mill sector. Is it due to the increasing sickness and closure of the mills? If it is so, how many mills have been permanently closed down so far? How many work-

ers and employees have been rendered unemployed? How many of them received the benefits from the Textile Workers Rehabilitation fund?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of 1137 mills in the country, 243 mills are in B.F.R., The number of closed Textiles Mills is 121, the number of spinning mills is 63 whereas there are 58 composite mills.

[English]

The total number of workers affected due to closure as on 31.1.93 is 1,69,852. The total number of workers in all the 1137 mills is 10,67,740. This is the actual position.

[Translation]

Why the production is decreasing, I would like to tell the hon. Member one or two points in this regard. During 1989-90, the production was 2.667 million metres and in 1992-93 it has come down to 2255 million metres the reason being the increase in power looms. I have supplied these reasons to the hon. member. there is a down-fall in production of mill cloth. This is due to the competition between powerloom and Mill cloth. previously, there was a competition between handloom and powerloom. But the production of handloom was not affected. instead it was a little more than that of powerloom. Due to competition between powerloom and Mill cloth, the mill cloth is showing a decreasing trend. This is because of the bigger overhead expenditure on mill cloth whereas powerloom has less expenditure. This is the main reason for more sale of powerloom cloth even in competition. If hon. member wishes to know more even after this, then I would give him statistics. Though I have already given the statistics, there is not much downfall in the handloom production. The production of mill cloth is 2255 million square metres in case of handloom, it is 4255 million square metres and in powerloom it is 16630 million square meters.

[English]

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Sir, the production of cloth has increased steadily during the last two years. In view of this increased production, may I know to what extent that has increased the production of cheaper cloth meant for the weaker sections of society under the Controlled Cloth Scheme? and also how much increase has taken place in the quality cloth to be provided at reasonable prices to the weaker sections under the Controlled cloth scheme? What steps have been contemplate to ensure availability of such clothes for the weaker sections?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was about the loss region wise and year wise. . Though the details regarding year wise losses have been furnished, but region wise details are yet to be furnished. Sir, through you, I would like to know why the cotton mills in Bihar are on the verge of being closed down even though the machines in Gaya cotton Mill are there latest ones? These are going to be closed down because of non supply of material as a result of which thousands of workers have been rendered unemployed. I want to know whether the Government proposes to take any concrete steps for making timely supply of raw material to the Mill so that the workers are not thrown out of employment?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, in the conditions of textile mills in the country is deteriorating day-by-day. After the strike in Bombay, the Government of India allocated Rs.750 crores for modernisation and the money it was deposited in IDBI. Many of the millsw did benefit from this. An amount of Rs. 8000 crores has been utilised under the modernisation programme. Even now, the Government of India is encouraging and exhorting them to import machinery for modernisation as there is a lot of competition not only within the country but also in the export market. The Government of India has deposited some money with the IDBI for modernisation and

for improving the quality of cloth. The money is borrowed from it only. In addition to it, import duty for importing textile machinery has also been reduced. Even the mills of Bihar can borrow money for modernisation out of the money deposited with the IDBI. If the demand for further reduction in import duty on machinery is put forth, it will be favorably considered.

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is regarding new cotton mills. So please has something in this regard. Please say something regarding supplies of material to the Gaya cotton Mill where latest machines are installed.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, his question is regarding other mills. therefore, if separate notice is given regarding the conditions prevailing in other mills, then I will be in a position to tell him about them. As the question does not pertain particularly to the mills in Bihar, how can I tell anything to him in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: You may supply him facts and figures in writing later on.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has already admitted that in the mill sector the production of cloth is going down whereas in powerloom sector it is going up. And the powerloom sector is competing with the mill sector because of the overhead expenses. Is it true that because in powerloom sector the labour is unorganized, there are less labour laws and there is no proper implementation of labour laws and, therefore, powerloom is competing with the mill sector? And if so, what does this Government proposes to do in this respect?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what can the Ministry of Textiles do in this regard? If the question is addressed to the Minister of labour, then proper reply can be given by that Ministry?

What can I do regarding the powerloom sector?

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: In the powerloom sector, where there is unorganised labour, where there less implementation of the labour laws, what are you going to do?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: It is a fact that the unorganised labour is exploited. I know it very well. Exploitation of labour is going on in the powerloom sector. However, this question does not pertain to my Ministry. Therefore address it to the Minister of Labour.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: He has to reply on behalf of the Government. He just cannot say that it is not his subject. That is not a proper approach. If the Minister cannot say, the Prime Minister should say something about it. He is present here.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to the hon. Minister submit to that all of us know that after agriculture, maximum people are employed in the handloom sector in the country. The hon. Minister is himself well aware of the plight of the weavers, who are nearly starving, because maximum starvation deaths among weavers had been reported from his state. I know that the powerloom sector is the victor in the competition between in end the handloom sector. This is evident from the statistics supplied by the hon. Minister. In view of the plight of the weavers and starvation deaths reported from amongst them, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether it is a fact that under the 'Textile Control Amendment Order, 1992', powerlooms are no more required to seek licence? The powerloom sector has been freed from the shackles of control and it will

face competition for survival as is clear from this year's 'Economic Survey' wherein a mention has been made regarding lifting of precondition of licence. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether with a view to help the weavers engaged in the powerloom sector, the Government propose to rescind the 'Textile Control Order (Amendment), 1992'?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding powerloom sector Shri Rabi Ray has raised a very interesting question. I would like to assure the hon. Member that since I have assumed charge of the Ministry of Textiles it is the endeavour of the Government to uplift the weavers all over the country, who are starving and are also below the poverty line, by starting schemes for the weavers in the villages all over India. I also convened a conference of the weavers and of the Handloom Ministers of States too. Many a decision were arrived at these conferences and it is the endeavour of the Government to ameliorate the lot of the weavers in the light of these decisions. The hon. Member, Shri Rabi Ray, has made correct submissions regarding the textile control order, because till 1985 it was applicable to the powerloom sector. However, at present it is not applicable to the powerloom sector. At the time this order was in enforce there were 6,00,000 powerlooms in the country. Right now there are 12,00,000 powerlooms in the country. The issue to check the powerlooms arises because there are 62,00,000 weavers/workers engaged in the powerlooms sector. The Government has to watch the interests of the powerlooms on the one hand and on the other hand of the working class and the handloom workers. For the handloom workers and the weavers...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not reply to the interruptions.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Sir? I was about to dwell on the issue of the working

conditions of the weavers and how it could be improved and on the issue regarding the supply of yarn to the weavers. The Government has formulated a scheme in this regard and it is going to be implemented too.

SHRI RABI RAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied to by the hon. Minister. In fact, I would like to thank Shri G. Venkat Swamy for his endeavors. My question was quite fundamental in nature that whether the hon. Minister does not think that 'Textile Control (Amendment) Order' will not prove to be a bottleneck in the growth and development of the weavers? What all he is doing is definitely doing. But the 'Textile Control Order (Amendment), 1992' basically creates bottlenecks. I would like to know from him what steps he propose to take to remove these bottlenecks? I have not got the reply in this regard that whether that order will be rescinded?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present 'Textile Control Order (Amendment)' has been issued in view of the plight of the weavers and to ameliorate the lot of the handloom weavers as per the Supreme Court Order. This control order is in the light of the implementation of that order that to give facilities to the powerloom and textile workers.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from the weavers' community. The hon. Minister has stated that he is striving hard to ameliorate the lot of the weavers. The weavers living in villages neither get cotton nor yarn and nor any assistance. Others are prospering in the name of the weavers. The hon. Minister has invited the representatives of the weavers.

MR. SPEAKER : Is this a question? Please ask your question.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, What assistance Government intends to provide to the weavers in the rural areas so that they are able to keep their ancestral profession alive? Besides many mills are not on the verge of closure, people are

forced to seek voluntary retirement under mandatory retirement scheme. In such a situation, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how the production of cloth would increase?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given reply to this. I repeat it for the convenience of the hon. Member. Keeping in view the problems of weavers a scheme is being formulated for improving their lot..

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRISHIM PATEL : What is that scheme, please enlighten us. We have been hearing about it for a long time that a scheme is being chalked out... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is formulating a number of schemes for improving the condition of weavers and to bring them above the poverty line. In order to ensure that yarn and dyes etc. are supplied to weavers in time we are chalking out schemes so that they are at least able to earn minimum wages while working in the Handloom sector. State Governments will have to ensure their implementation. We are holding talks with them. A scheme is being formulated for ensuring minimum wages. The schemes would not be implemented successfully unless the State Governments cooperate. The State Governments have to be convinced. Once the scheme is given final shape, the detailed information would be placed in the House.

SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that Sholapur city is famous for the production of towels and bed sheets, however its production is reducing gradually. 22 items which have been banned for powerloom sector include towels and bed sheets also which are lot foreign exchange for us. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that keeping in view the fact that Sholapur is famous all over the country for manufacture of best

quality of Jacquard sheets and towels of export quality, which the hon. Minister may also be having in his house, whether the Government propose to lift the ban on these items.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this question related to it?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps the hon. Member is referring to the Supreme Court's order under which 22 items have been reserved for exclusive manufacture in the Handloom sector and he wants these two item to be excluded from this list. No decision to this effect has so far been taken. The Government propose to implement the order of the Supreme Court.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already spent half an hour on this question. Now we will take up the next question.

[English]

Small Scale Sector

*303. SHRI *MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of the small scale sector is expected to fall sharply during the current financial year, as reported in the Pioneer dated February 16, 1993;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the growth rate registered by this sector during 1992-93 vis-a-vis 1991-92;

(d) whether the Government are still working out the sectoral performance of this sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial steps proposed to boost the growth of small scale sector?