

### Women Weavers

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\*405. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:  
DR. R. MALLU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to improve the economic condition and welfare of women weavers in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT.SWAMY): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

- (a) Government have conducted a National Handloom Census through various State Governments covering inter-alia certain data on the socio-economic aspects of women handloom weavers including those in Andhra Pradesh.
- (b) Census reveals that there are 2.08 lakh women workers in Andhra Pradesh engaged in the preparatory and weaving activities of handlooms spread over as many as 1.72 lakh weaver households. The measures taken by Government for improving the economic condition and welfare of weavers are available to women weavers also. The scheme for the Development of Integrated Handloom Villages introduced from the year 1991-92 provides for a comprehensive support to weavers including supply of raw material, training for weavers, marketing support, supply of equipments and upgradation of technology, housing, community development and upgradation of managerial skill. The scheme envisages that each cooperative society identified under

this scheme should have atleast 23% of women weavers as members. The recently announced Health Package Scheme also envisages Maternity benefits for women weavers/women in weavers household, in addition to other medical facilities. Assistance under the new project package Scheme can also be made available to benefit a particular target group such as women weavers.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Sir, today being 'Ugadi', the Telugu New Year's day, let me wish a happy and prosperous new year to the Prime Minister and also the Minister for Textiles, who have come from Andhra Pradesh, and also a happy new year to all the Telugu friends and others in this august House. It is on this auspicious day, I wish that the Minister would do much more to the handloom sector.

My question is based on the starvation deaths which took place during the year 1991 in Andhra Pradesh. Among 120 deaths, about 40 per cent of these were of women. In view of this background, I have been asking the hon. Minister whether any specific economic schemes have been envisaged during the recent meeting that had been addressed by the hon. Prime Minister. I congratulate the Minister for convening the meeting of all the delegates of weavers all over India. They have been taking good steps

Have any specific economic programmes been envisaged?

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. Time is very short. Loom at the watch also.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Sir, have any economic programmes been envisaged by the Government with regard to old-age pension, insurance scheme, financial assistance to children's education interest free consumption loans and their health programmes as far as women weavers are concerned in Andhra Pradesh.

**SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY:** Sir, assistance is given under the integrated handloom village scheme only to societies which have at least 23 per cent of women weavers.

Under the health package scheme, apart from medical reimbursement for women, special maternity benefit is also included. Under project package scheme, a special proposal for women weavers can be formulated for production, processing and marketing of specific products.

**PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:** My question has not been answered. I requested specifically whether there is any amount allocated for the old-age pension and also for the insurance scheme etc for the women weavers.

**SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY:** Insurance scheme is for all, including women.

**PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:** Sir, the Abid Hussain Committee was appointed about the handloom sector long back. Have the recommendations of this Committee been examined by the Government and implemented? If so, is there any specific programme meant for women labourers?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is being studied and only after that, it would be implemented.

**SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has chalked out schemes to improve the economic condition of not only the women weavers of Andhra Pradesh but also men weavers of Andhra Pradesh. Some voluntary organisations are also working to improve their economic condition as also working for their welfare. But I would like to know from the Government the names of the places where voluntary organisations, whose names are registered with the Government and which provide financial assistance to weavers at the Government and non-Government level,

have taken steps to improve their economic condition as also for their welfare. If the Government likes to know the names of those voluntary organisation, I would like to inform it that they are working by the name of Bonded Labour Liberation Front.

**SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious question. The economic condition of the weavers of the country is quite miserable. The Prime Minister has paid attention to it. Efforts are being made to ameliorate their economic condition and to raise them above the poverty line by implementing new schemes. This scheme is under implementation and its results would be visible in near future.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### **Japanes Investment**

\*406. **DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made by Japan in the country during 1992-93 upto February, 1993 and proposed for 1993-94;

(b) the projects in which this investment has been made during the period and proposed for 1993-94; and

(c) the States where these projects have been/are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Total foreign investment approvals given to Japanese companies for investment in India amounted to Rs. 6102.3 million in 1992 and Rs. 65.3 million in the 1993 upto the month