

grass roots and will impart training to the youth and artisans for upgradation of their skills. The Centres will also manufacture low cost building materials and components from local resources.

(b) The scheme will be implemented and operated through the Housing and Urban Development Corporation. The Centres will be managed by setting up of an organisation in the form of a registered trust/society. The Ministry of Urban Development will sanction a grant of Rs. 2 lakh to each Centre through HUDCO. In addition to this, loan assistance will be made available by the HUDCO to the extent of Rs. 4 lakh at 10% interest rate per annum repayable in 12 years with moratorium of 2 years. These centres will be deemed to be small scale industrial units.

(c) So far, 35 building centres have been set up in 11 States as given below:

1.	West Bengal	1
2.	Assam	1
3.	U.P.	4
4.	Rajasthan	1
5.	Delhi	1
6.	Andhra Pradesh	7
7.	Kerala	13
8.	Kamataka	4
9.	Tamil Nadu	1
10.	Pondicherry	1
11.	Andaman & Nicobar	1

Of the 35 Centres, five have become functional.

Plight of Handloom Weavers

1054. SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware of the plight of handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

It has been reported that the livelihood of the handloom weavers in Chirala area has been badly affected due to the slump in demand for lungies.

After obtaining a report from Government of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government was requested to send specific proposals to provide relief to the affected weavers. The Central Government have already released a sum of Rs. 60.00 lakhs as special advance for providing gainful employment to the unemployed weavers as a measure to ameliorate the distress conditions of the handloom weavers in Prakasam and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh.

To examine the possibility of providing export avenues to the products of the Weavers of Chirala, the Central Government has also deputed an officer of Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India, who has placed sample orders with the weavers' agencies in Chirala.

Deaths Dub to Brain Fever in Delhi

1055. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether brain fever is still prevailing in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of people who have died in Delhi dub to the brain fever during the last one year; and

(c) the effective steps taken to remedy the situation?