

percentage of population below the poverty line in the North-eastern States varied from 20.64 per cent to 48.24 per cent in the rural areas and 3.33 per cent to 33.78 per cent in the urban areas as against the all-India weighted figures of 54.09 per cent and 41.22 per cent respectively. However, these figures are now out of date and a fresh compilation is now on hand with reference to the year 1978-79.

The States of the North-eastern Region are treated as special category States for the purpose of allocation of Central assistance. The plans of the North-eastern States and Union Territories are virtually fully assisted by the Central Government. 90 per cent of the Central assistance is given in the form of grants and only 10 per cent in the form of loans to these

States as against 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant to other States.

2. The average Plan outlay for North-eastern States and Union Territories for the last three years is Rs. 327.31 crores which works out to average of Rs. 167 per capita annum, against the all India figure of Rs. 114. The details are given in the attached statement. The utilisation of funds by the States in the successive Five Year Plans periods has been fairly satisfactory, on the basis of the reported expenditure.

3. In addition, funds are also being allocated for schemes which are of common interest to more than one State, or to a Union Territory, and one of the States, in the region under the development plans of the North-eastern Council.

#### Statement

#### ALLOCATIONS TO NORTH EASTERN STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES 1978-81

(Rs. in crores)

	1978-79		1979-80		1980-81		Average per year	
	Approved Outlay	Per Capita outlay	App.out-lay	Per Capita Outlay	App. Out-lay	Per Capita Outlay	Total	Per Capita Outlay
North Eastern States and Union Territories	299 66	153	315 68	161	366 58	187	327 31	167
All States together	5799 20	106	5965 82	109	6977 76	127	6247 59	114

#### Ashok Mehta Commission Report for the Development of Powerloom Industry

1100. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the recommendations of Ashok Mehta Commission Report for the development of powerloom industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance to be given to the pow-

erloom weavers in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the steps to be taken for improving the financial conditions of powerloom workers/weavers in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) The recommendations made by the Ashok Mehta Committee in its report submitted in 1964 were generally accepted by Government.

(b) and (c). The Ashok Mehta Committee Report does not contain any specific recommendation for providing financial assistance to powerloom weavers in Madhya Pradesh.

**Harijans killed in Bhatinda and East Champaran District**

1101. DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Harijans were killed on the 29th February, 1980 at Bhatinda;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at least 15 huts of Harijans were set on fire at village Phulwar under the Gora-sahan Police Station in East Champaran District and on the 27th February, 1980 in Motihari; and

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have or are considering on war footing measures to crush the elements who are out to create such situations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) No, Sir, only one Harijan was killed on 27-2-1980 at village Phallar, P.S. Sangat, Bhatinda as a result of a dispute between two families of Mazhbies (Scheduled Castes) in the village.

(b) the information is being collected from the Government of Bihar and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Home Minister has recently written to Chief Ministers/Governors/Lt. Governors of all States to take stringent measures to curb the evil of atrocities on members of Scheduled Castes etc.

**Demand, Production and Import of Paper**

1102. SHRI BALASAMEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of paper in the country and the quantities produced each year during the last four years;

(b) the quantities of paper imported each year indicating the countries from which imported and the amount spent on such imports each year during the last four years; and

(c) what steps have been taken to make the country self-sufficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) The total production of paper and paper boards during the last four years was as follows:—

Year	(Production in lakh tonnes)		
1976	..	..	8.80
1877	..	..	9 37
1978	..	..	10 06
1979	..	..	10.40 (provisional)

The production of paper and paper board was by and large sufficient to meet the indigenous demand, except for some speciality grade papers such as electrical insulation papers, filter papers etc. Only during the years 1978 and 1979, there was a spurt in the demand, leading to complaints of non-availability of writing and printing paper. It is estimated that the gap between demand and availability of paper during these years was about 50,000 to 70,000 tonnes.

(b) A statement indicating details of source, quantity and value of import of paper and paper board from principal countries for the last four years is attached (Annexure).