

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4283

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011

POWERLOOM SECTOR

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the condition of weavers and entrepreneurs in Powerloom sector is worsening due to increasing foreign investment, imbalanced market and absence of suitable export policy and as a result of it certain units are on the verge of closure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the number of Powerlooms set up/closed in the country and the number of employed people who have lost their job, State-wise;
- (c) the details and salient features of the schemes/incentives given by the Government to promote the Powerloom sector in the country;
- (d) the details and nature of products manufactured by the Powerloom sector during the last three years;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to grant permission to Handloom sector for setting up semi-powerlooms for promotion of Handloom sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the wages of workers engaged in the Handloom/Powerloom sectors?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES(SMT. PANABAAGA LAKSHMI)

- (a): No Madam, Government has not received any representation that condition of weavers and entrepreneurs in Powerloom sector is worsening due to increasing foreign investment, imbalanced market and absence of suitable export policy and that Powerloom units are on the verge of closure. Fabric production has increased from 33648 sq. meters in 2008-09 to 36997 sq. meters in 2009-10 to 37517 sq. meters in 2010-11 indicating robust growth of the Powerloom sector. The offtake on government schemes for development of Powerloom sector has also been showing increasing trends.
- (b): Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c): The important schemes implemented by Government for development of Powerloom sector are (i) Technology upgradation Funds scheme(ii) Group Workshed Scheme (iii) Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development (iv) Comprehensive Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme and (v) Group Insurance Scheme for welfare of Powerloom weavers. The schemes aim at technology upgradation & modernization of powerloom units, marketing development, skill upgradation and welfare of powerloom weavers.
- (d): The powerloom sector produces a variety of fabrics for domestic as well as export sector.
- (e): Government is not implementing any schemes for conversion of handloom units into powerloom units.
- (f): Wages in handlooms / powerlooms sectors are governed by market fundamentals.