

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2914
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
SET UP OF WEAVER ZONE
Chauhan Shri Dara Singh

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a special zone in weaver dominated region of Uttar Pradesh in order to facilitate purchase of the woven cloth from the weavers for its sale in the country as well as export to various countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes any scheme to provide education and medical treatment to weavers and their family members;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has noticed that yarn producing companies are hiking yarn price on regular basis; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken by the Government to check increasing prices of yarn?

Answer

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

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been implementing Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme all across the country with the components of (i) Health Insurance Scheme, which aims to provide the weavers and ancillary workers comprehensive healthcare assistance for a wide range of ailments including a substantial provision for outpatient department (OPD) services. The scheme allows the insured to avail of alternative system of medicines; maternity benefits; baby care; spectacles and also covers all pre-existing diseases; and (ii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, which aims to provide insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death and in case of total or partial disability. This scheme has provided scholarships to 1.55 lakh children of handloom weavers in 2010-11, and to about 60,000 children in 2011-12 so far. The Ministry also runs five Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology to provide training and education in handloom activities.

(e) & (f) The Government is aware of the fluctuation in the prices of yarn. However, these prices have gone up on account of spurt in prices in the overseas markets, export of cotton yarn etc. In order to bring down the prices of cotton yarn, the Government of India has regulated the export of cotton and cotton yarn, which has resulted in reduction in the prices and availability of cotton yarn.