



**NINTH REPORT**  
**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**  
**(2006-2007)**  
**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**'WORKING CONDITIONS OF WOMEN IN HANDLOOM SECTOR'**

**MINISTRY OF TEXTILES**

*[Action Taken on Fourth Report of Committee on Empowerment of Women  
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)]*

**NINTH REPORT**

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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

**November, 2006/Agrahayana, 1928 (Saka)**

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**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**  
**(2006-2007)**

**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

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**MINISTRY OF TEXTILES**

*[Action Taken on Fourth Report of Committee on Empowerment of Women  
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)]*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2006*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2006*

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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

**November, 2006/ Agrahayana, 1928 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN  
(2006-2007)**

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**Hon'ble Chairperson - Smt. Krishna Tirath**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Smt. Priya Dutt
3. Smt. Jayaprada
4. Smt. Preneet Kaur
5. Smt. Sushila Kerketta
6. Smt. Manorama Madhvaraj
7. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
8. Smt. Kiran Maheshwari
9. Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi
10. Smt. Neeta Pateriya
11. Prof. M. Ramadass
12. Smt. K. Rani
13. Smt. Tejaswini See Ramesh
14. Smt. Minati Sen
15. Smt. Karuna Shukla
16. Smt. C.S. Sujatha
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18. Shri P. C. Thomas
19. Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar
20. Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu

**RAJYA SABHA**

21. Smt. Shobhana Bhartia
22. Ms. Pramila Bohidar
23. Smt. Prema Cariappa
24. Kumari Nirmala Deshpande
25. Smt. N.P. Durga
- 26.\* Smt. S.G. Indira
27. Smt. Brinda Karat
28. Smt. Hema Malini
29. Smt. Maya Singh
30. Smt. Syeda Anwara Taimur

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                       |                      |
|----|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri S.K. Sharma      | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri J.P. Sharma      | Joint Secretary      |
| 3. | Smt. Veena Sharma     | Deputy Secretary     |
| 4. | Shri V.P. Goel        | Assistant Director   |
| 5. | Smt. Archana Pathania | Committee Officer    |

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\* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2006

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson of Committee on Empowerment of Women, present the Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Working Conditions of Women in Handloom Sector' relating to the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Fourth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2005. Replies of the Government to all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have been received.

3. The Draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2006-2007) at their sitting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2006. The Minutes of the sitting form Part II of the Report.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix – I of the Report.

5. An Analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given at Appendix II.

**NEW DELHI**  
**10<sup>th</sup> November, 2006**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Kartik, 1928 (Saka)**

**KRISHNA TIRATH**  
**CHAIRPERSON**  
**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

1. This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the subject 'Working Conditions of Women in Handloom Sector' relating to the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Fourth Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2005. Replies of Government in respect of all recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.  
Para Nos.:- 83, 85, 86, 87, 89, 90, 93, 94, 95, 98, 99, 100 and 101.
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government.  
Para No.- 88, 91, 92 and 96.
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations, replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.  
Para Nos.-. 84 and 97.
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the Government have furnished interim replies.  
Nil.

**3. The Committee desire that replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter I should be furnished by the Government expeditiously.**

4. The Committee will now deal with those action taken replies of the Government, which need reiteration or merit comments.

### **Recommendation Para No. 84**

#### **Lack of gender specific schemes for Women Weavers**

5. The Committee in their Original Report had noted that no gender specific schemes were being operated by the Ministry in spite of the fact that out of the 65 lakh weavers, there were 32.27 lakh women weavers as revealed by the Census conducted during 1995-96. The Ministry had informed the Committee that though the schemes and programmes implemented by the Government were not gender specific, however, the benefits of such schemes percolates down to women weavers also. The Committee had expressed the view that women weavers had to discharge the dual responsibility of looking after their household as well as earning livelihood and faced many problems out of the drudgery of job, less productivity and poor marketing and also various health problems caused by the nature of their job. In this regard, the Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, during oral evidence had admitted that there was need to give special focus on the training and upgradation of their skills and also to improve their living conditions. He had further conceded that they would be more sensitive to their cause from this year onwards. The Committee had opined that the special needs of women weavers had to be addressed, taking into consideration the problems faced by them on day to day basis and this could not be done in the absence of gender specific schemes. The Committee had therefore, desired the Ministry to formulate specific schemes exclusively for women weavers and also incorporate specific provisions, for the benefit of women weavers in the existing schemes to cater to their needs.



6. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Textiles have stated that in various schemes being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom, weavers including women weavers are taken care of. The Health Insurance Scheme covers specific needs of women weavers. It provides maternity benefits and baby coverage, which are specific needs of the women weavers. The Director in-charge of Handlooms of all States/UTs & Officers In-charge of Weavers' Service Centre have been requested to take necessary steps to intensify the coverage of women weavers under the Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP) Scheme. Under Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, for such implementing agencies which have 100% beneficiary members as SC/ST/Women/Minorities, the sharing pattern between the Centre and the State is 75:25 which clearly indicates the concern of the Government of India to women weavers.

**7. While expressing their concern over lack of gender specific schemes for women weavers, the Committee in their Original Report had opined that the special needs of women weavers could not be addressed. The Committee had desired the Ministry to formulate specific schemes exclusively for women weavers and also incorporate specific provisions for the benefit of women weavers in the existing schemes to cater to their needs.**

**8. The Committee are dismayed to note the action taken reply furnished by the Ministry stating that in various schemes being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom, weavers including women weavers are taken care of. Though on the one hand, the Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, during evidence had admitted that there was a need to improve the living conditions of women weavers and assured the Committee that they would be more sensitive for their cause from this year onwards. The**

**reply of the Ministry is stereotyped and does not commensurate with the assurance given by the Secretary before the Committee. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry should have explored the possibilities of modifying the ongoing schemes to incorporate specific provisions for women weavers as also formulating new schemes. The Committee feel that unless and until specific schemes are formulated keeping in view their special needs, their living conditions cannot be improved. The Committee, therefore, while reiterating their original recommendation desire that the Ministry should take appropriate steps in this direction.**

### **Recommendation Para No. 85**

#### **Lack of separate data/record regarding women weavers**

9. The Committee had noted that National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) had not maintained any data regarding the facilities availed by women weavers under the schemes. The Committee had expressed the view that such data/record would be of great help for the Ministry/NHDC in formulating specific policies/schemes for women weavers. The Committee, therefore, had desired the Ministry to take appropriate steps for maintaining separate data/record regarding the women weavers availing various benefits under the schemes being implemented by the Government.

10. In their Action Taken Note, the Ministry have stated that the Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS) is being implemented through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). NHDC has been advised to maintain a data/record regarding the women weavers availing benefits of the MGPS scheme.

11. As regards other schemes since the schemes are being implemented through the State Governments/various handloom organizations / NGOs / Self Help Groups, the data/record regarding the women weavers availing the benefits of such schemes does not come directly to the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms).

**12. The Committee in their earlier Report had desired the Ministry to take appropriate steps for maintaining separate data/record regarding the women weavers availing various benefits under the schemes being implemented by the Government.**

**13. The Committee are disappointed to note the casual reply furnished by the Ministry that National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) has been advised to maintain a data/record regarding the women weavers availing benefits of the scheme. As regards other schemes, the Ministry have stated that since the schemes are being implemented through State Governments and various other agencies, the data/record regarding the women weavers does not come directly to the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms). The Committee are not convinced with the reasoning of the Ministry. They are of the view that the Ministry can not absolve themselves of their responsibilities and wash their hands off simply by stating that the schemes are being implemented by other agencies. The Committee feel that the availability of such data/record would be of immense help to the Ministry in formulating specific schemes for women weavers as well as incorporating provisions in the existing schemes for the benefit of women weavers. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Ministry should collect the data/record regarding the number of women availing the benefit of the schemes of the Ministry of Textiles (scheme-wise) since the past three years and maintain the**

**data from this year onwards which would definitely serve as a useful input while formulating new schemes for women weavers.**

**Recommendation Para No.89**

**Provision for Credit Facilities to women weavers at concessional rate**

14. In the aforesaid paragraph, the Committee had noted that there was no provision for providing credit facilities to women weavers at concessional rates under various schemes meant for weavers launched by the Ministry. The Committee had expressed the view that by providing credit facilities to women weavers at concessional rates Government would help them improve their working conditions. The Committee had desired the Ministry to work out some ways and means to provide credit to women weavers at concessional rates under consultation with the Ministry of Finance/banking institutions.

15. The Ministry of Textiles in their Action Taken Notes have stated that a proposal to provide credit guarantee scheme for credit facilities to all weavers, including women weavers, at a lower rate of interest, is already under consideration of the Government.

**16. The Committee in their Original Report had desired the Government to work out ways and means to provide credit to women weavers at concessional rates under consultation with the Ministry of Finance/banking institutions. The Committee are not convinced with the reply of the Ministry that a proposal to provide credit guarantee scheme for credit facilities to all weavers, including women weavers, at a lower rate of interest is already under consideration of the Government. The Committee are particularly concerned about the credit facilities for women weavers since they feel that women**

**weavers, who generally belong to poor strata of society, find it difficult to avail credit facilities due to higher rates of interest. Providing them credit facilities at concessional rates would immensely help to improve their working conditions. The Committee, therefore, would like to reiterate their earlier recommendation that suitable steps to provide credit facilities to women weavers at concessional rates may be taken urgently.**

### **Recommendation Para No.97**

#### **Delay in construction of Workshed-cum-Houses**

17. The Committee in the aforesaid recommendation of their earlier Report had noted that 12008 Workshed-cum-Houses were sanctioned to weavers during the year 2004-05. The Committee had emphasised the need to construct, without further delay, these Workshed-cum-Houses in or around those places where these weavers were concentrated. The Committee also desired to be apprised of the status of construction of such Worksheds within a period of three months of the presentation of the Report.

18. The Ministry of Textiles in their Action Taken Note have stated that the State Governments have been requested to construct the workshed/workshed-cum-Houses sanctioned to the States during the period 2004-05 immediately and send the Utilization Certificate and physical progress report.

**19. From the action taken notes furnished by the Ministry, the Committee are surprised to note that after a period of six months of presentation of their Report, the Ministry, who were expected to furnish the status of construction of such Worksheds, have simply replied that the State Governments have been requested to construct the worksheds immediately and send the utilization Certificate and**

**physical progress report. The Committee are of the view that mere issuance of instructions have not served any purpose which is evident from the fact that the Worksheds sanctioned to weavers during the year 2004-2005 have not been constructed so far. The Committee feel that failure to provide a specific information in this regard itself does not speak favourably about the Governments efforts. Apparently, the Ministry are taking undue time in collecting the utilization certificate and the physical progress report. The Committee desire that the Ministry should take up the matter at the appropriate level to get the workshed/workshed-cum-houses completed without further delay. The Committee hope that information regarding construction of worksheds under the 'Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme' State-wise would be furnished to them without further loss of time.**

## **Recommendation Para No.101**

### **Lack of proper Grievance Redressal Mechanism**

20. The Committee in their Original Report were surprised to note that except 156 complaints received in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Nagaland, no complaint had been received from any women weavers during the last one year. The Committee had concluded that the existing redressal mechanism was not adequate. Though information about the existence of such a Cell was available on the website, the Committee felt that as the weavers were generally illiterate they may not be aware of the existence of such a mechanism. The Committee desired the Ministry to set up such Grievance-Redressal mechanism at State level also. The Committee had also expressed the opinion that the complaint boxes be made available at the field level offices so that the weavers could drop their complaints/grievances in these boxes.

21. The Ministry of Textiles in their Action Taken Notes have stated that *vide* their letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006, all State Directors-In-charge of Handlooms and Textiles have been directed to set up Grievance Redressal mechanism in these States so that the grievances of women weavers in particular are resolved quickly. The information from Kerala & Bihar in this respect is as under:-

22. In respect of Kerala, as per the directions contained in the Report, proposals had been submitted vide HL/P2/1450/06 dated 24.02.06, to nominate Shri R. Rangaraja Iyyenkar, Joint Director of Handloom & Textiles as State Grievance Redressal Officer and to constitute Grievance Redressal Cell in the Directorate headed by the senior most officer R.Rangaraja Iyyenkar, Joint Director of Handloom & Textiles with Deputy Director (Enforcement), Deputy Director(Co-op)/Deputy Registrar in the Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, and the District Level, Managers/Deputy Registrar dealing with Handloom in the

District Industries Centres and Assistant District Industries Officers in the Taluk Industries Officers are to be declared as District Level and Taluk Level Grievance Redressal Officers. Administrative Sanction is also sought for making of 78 Complaint Boxes in wood. On receipt of Government sanction, the system will be incorporated in the functioning of the Department.

23. In respect of Bihar, the State Government has set up Grievance Redressal Mechanism at State Level under Director of Industries/Handloom & Sericulture and also in all districts under General Manager of Industries/Deputy Development Officer (Textile)/Assistant Registrar, Bunkar and Handloom and all Assistant Directors of Industries (Resham) where complaint Boxes have been kept.

**24. From the Action Taken Notes submitted by the Ministry, the Committee find that so far only two States have set up Grievance Redressal Mechanism. The Committee feel that setting up of Grievance Redressal Mechanism by only two States is an indication of failure on the part of the Ministry in implementing the recommendation of the Committee in true sense. The Committee are of the view that Grievance Redressal Mechanism is essential for redressing the grievances of weavers as it is the pre-requisite for the development of any sector. The Committee, therefore, hope that the Ministry would take urgent concrete steps to get the Grievance Redressal Mechanism set up in all the States.**

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## **CHAPTER II**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendations**

Handloom sector which plays an important role in the country's economy is one of the largest economic activities providing direct employment to about 65 lakh weavers engaged in weaving and allied activities. The 1995-96 Powerloom and Handloom Census has revealed that out of the 65 lakh weavers working in weaving and allied activities, 32.27 lakh were women. Handloom is a household activity in which men are engaged in weaving while women contribute to preloom work like warp winding by hand, winding of the pirn, preparation of the shuttles and winding of headless (tilli). In some States like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, the women weavers are full time weavers in the range of between 65% to 79%. While in other States, women undertake ancillary activities in addition to their household chores to supplement household income from weaving.

**(Para No.83)**

#### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

There is no specific point on which comments are required.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

#### **Recommendations**

The Committee are surprised to know that National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) does not have any data regarding the facilities availed by women weavers under the schemes. The Committee are of the view that such data/record would be of great help for the Ministry/NHDC in formulating specific policies/schemes for women weavers. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take appropriate steps for maintaining separate

data/record regarding the women weavers availing various benefits under the schemes being implemented by the Government.

**(Para No. 85)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

The Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS) is being implemented through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). NHDC has been advised to maintain a data/record regarding the women weavers availing benefits of the MGPS scheme.

As regards other schemes since the schemes are being implemented through the State Governments/various handloom organizations / NGOs / Self Help Groups, the data/record regarding the women weavers availing the benefits of such schemes does not come directly to the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms).

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee are not happy to be informed that the Ministry have not carried out any survey to find out the basic problems being faced by the handloom weavers till date. The apathy of the Ministry towards this vital issue is nothing but regretful. The Committee are of the view that unless the Ministry are aware of the problems of the weavers, specially women weavers, they cannot take appropriate measures for the improvement of their conditions. The Committee also note that the Ministry have no hesitation in carrying out such a survey, as informed by the Secretary during evidence. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Ministry to get a study/survey carried out to identify the problems being faced by the weavers so that Government could take appropriate measures in this regard. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of such survey and action taken by the Ministry.

**(Para No. 86)**

## **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

Action is being taken to get a study/survey carried out to identify the problems being faced by the weavers, especially women weavers.

In order to provide assistance in a holistic manner, the Government of India after conducting diagnostic study at five places, has introduced "Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme" for the development of handloom sector, with an outlay of Rs.40.00 crore for development of 20 handloom clusters throughout the country.

National Productivity Council (NPC) has been awarded a study to identify the factors responsible for decline in handloom cloth production of India NPC has been advised to design the questionnaires in a manner that the information gathered during the study should also indicate the problem being faced by the weavers, especially women weavers.

The scheme will support weavers in the cooperative and outside fold including those of Self Help Groups, NGOs, small and medium enterprises and attached weavers. Following a holistic approach the programme will cover the entire needs of the handloom sector in each cluster for supply of raw materials, marketing support, design inputs, upgradation of technology and welfare of the weavers. Quality human resource inputs for various functions will be provided to each cluster through an exclusive cluster based institution to which the Central Government will provide funds directly. Customised programmes will be developed for each cluster after a detailed survey and requirement analysis. The existing development interventions in the handloom sector will be converged in these cluster and operated through the new cluster based institutions. It is expected that through various interventions, the weaknesses of the clusters will be rectified and it would make their products more competitive in the market place. Special emphasis would be given on the design component where assistance of professional designers will be taken as well as product diversification will be undertaken.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee find that the schemes formulated by the Government for development and growth of handloom sector are being implemented by various agencies viz. (i) National Level Handloom organizations; (ii) State Handloom Development Corporations; (iii) Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies/Federations; (iv) Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies (v)

Weavers Service Centres. The Committee note that the involvement of NGOs and SHGs is restricted only to Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) and Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP) Schemes as they are the eligible agencies for implementation of these two schemes. The Committee have not been informed as to why NGOs and SHGs are not involved in the implementation of other schemes of the Government. The Committee are of the opinion that handloom weavers, specially women weavers, belong to that strata of society which may not be aware of various benefits/facilities extended by the Government and provisions contained in various schemes and also how to avail the benefits of schemes meant for them. The Committee feel that NGOs/SHGs being grassroot functionaries can play a vital role in bridging the gap between the Government and women weavers. The Committee, therefore, desire the Government to explore the possibility of involving NGOs/SHGs in the implementation of all the schemes including Bunkar Bima Yojana, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Handloom Export Scheme, Marketing Promotion Programme and other weavers' welfare schemes so that they could educate the women weavers about various provisions of these schemes and the benefits meant for them. NGOs and SHGs would be of great help in organizing these women weavers into groups for availing the benefits of various schemes formulated by the Government in handloom sector. The Committee further desire that NGOs and SHGs with good credentials and strong financial integrity may only be selected for this purpose.

**(Para No.87)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

As regards the implementing agencies for the Weavers' Welfare Scheme, Health Insurance Scheme, Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana etc, the Primary Cooperative Societies, Apex Coop. Societies, State Handloom Development Corporation can implement the schemes for their weavers. In the case of Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, the weavers outside the Cooperative Societies can also be covered on a certificate from the respective State Directors In-charge of Handlooms that the weavers are fulfilling the eligibility conditions. Under Marketing Promotion Programmes, though the NGOs and SHGs are not included as implementing agencies however they are allowed to participate in the exhibitions provided they should fulfill the conditions of CAPART. In the new scheme for the XI Plan we may include NGOs/SHGs as implementing agencies under the Marketing Promotion Programme provided that they should have good credentials, strong integrity and proven track record in the field of handlooms. However, their proposals should be routed through concerned Director of Handlooms. Under Mill Gate Price Schemes, members of recognized/approved handloom associations and NGOs fulfilling CAPART norms are already included in the agencies eligible to avail the benefits available to the handloom. Further, It is gathered that presently there are only a few NGOs/SHGs

working in the field of Handlooms, which are not properly developed to handle an activity like export. However, it is proposed to involve NGOs/SHGs for implementing export projects in future when such agencies are fully equipped and developed to work exclusively in the decentralized handloom sector.

It is not out of place to mention here that the Government of India has sanctioned projects under Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana to the NGOs and Women organizations also through the respective State Governments.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee find that there is no provision for providing credit facilities to women weavers at concessional rates under various schemes meant for weavers launched by the Ministry. The Committee are of the view that by providing credit facilities to women weavers at concessional rates Government would help them improve their working conditions. As such, the Committee desire the Ministry to work out some ways and means to provide credit to women weavers at concessional rates under consultation with the Ministry of Finance/banking institutions.

**(Para No. 89)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

A proposal to provide credit guarantee scheme for credit facilities to all weavers, including women weavers, at a lower rate of interest, is already under consideration of the Government.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee note that under DDHPY only 33 handloom organizations having 100% women beneficiaries covering 1025 women weavers have been able to avail the benefits. The Committee, while expressing their concern over the low coverage of women weavers under this scheme, feel that this scheme, like other schemes of the Ministry, has not been implemented in the right perspective due to inadequate publicity and lack of awareness of the benefits of this scheme among the targeted beneficiaries i.e. women weavers. The Committee, therefore desire that the objectives and components of not only DDHPY but also of all other schemes of Government meant for weavers should

be given a wide publicity both through electronic and print media in all the States where there is concentration of weavers, specially women weavers so that they may become aware of these schemes and benefits of these schemes could reach all those areas where women weavers are concentrated.

**(Para No. 90)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

The Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana is a popular scheme. According to the figures presently available, during the Xth Plan (31.03.2006) 18,04,206 weavers have been benefited the scheme, this clearly indicates the interest of the weavers in the scheme. The scheme is not only available on the website of this office; [www.handlooms.nic.in](http://www.handlooms.nic.in) but is popular among the States.

Regarding wide publicity for handloom schemes through print and electronic media, this office has been funding for publicity of the schemes through seminars, brochures etc. during exhibitions and advertisements in the leading newspapers. Further, advertisements have been issued on Integrated Cluster Development Scheme, Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Health Insurance Scheme and National Awards etc.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee are not happy to be informed that only 46,721 women have been imparted training under different schemes/workshops/programmes viz. Design Exhibition-cum-Workshops, Short Term Training Programme, Decentralized Training Programme/IHTP from 2002-03 to 2004-05 specially under short term programme where the number of the women weavers has not reached to even four figures. The Committee are not satisfied with the reason given by the Ministry that this short term training programme is a fee based course conducted by weavers' service centres. The Committee also take note that only 101 girl students have completed training in Indian Institute of Handloom Technology from 2002-03 to 2004-05 and there is no reservation of seats for girl candidates in this Institute. The Committee further find that percentage of women weavers as compared to male weavers who have been given training during the last 3 years under Design Development and Training Programme (DDTP) is very discouraging and it has come down to 29.96% during 2004-05 from 36.28% in the previous year. In another scheme i.e. Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP) which was introduced in December 2003, the

Committee note that only 2000 women weavers have been imparted training, which is not a satisfactory figure. The Committee do not agree with the views expressed by the Ministry that the number of trainees depends upon the proposals submitted by the implementing agencies. The Committee also find that schemes for training of weavers are not gender specific and no special budget has been allocated for training of women weavers under different programmes. The Committee are of the view that the women weavers are not in a position to face competitive environment and improve their productivity till they acquire requisite skill and proper training. Keeping in view the limited skills and inadequate knowledge of women weavers, the need for training for them assumes more importance. Even the Secretary of the Ministry during evidence admitted that there are a large number of women weavers and special efforts are required to give focus to their condition, to their training and upgrading their skills. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to make sincere efforts for covering more women weavers under their various training programmes. Steps should also be taken to organize training programmes for women weavers at the places where there is a concentration of women weavers to enable them to participate in the training programmes without facing any difficulty. Further, in order to augment the number of women weavers in various training programmes specially in short term training programmes, the Ministry should take appropriate steps for giving some concessions to women in the fee structure and also to persuade the Women Cooperative Societies and State Governments to submit more proposals for imparting training to women weavers so as to enable more and more women weavers to take admission in such courses to update their technical know how. The Committee desire that the Ministry should allocate some seats for women weavers in various training programmes and also take appropriate steps for allocating separate budget for the training programmes meant for women weavers. The Committee also desire that the training programmes undertaken by various Institutes of the Ministry should be periodically reviewed to monitor their utility and effectiveness for women participants.

**(Para No. 93)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

The Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP) has been introduced in December 2003 to honour the announcement of the then Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2002 for skill upgradation of handloom weavers. The Scheme provides equal opportunity to the male and female weavers to come forward for training. Vide letter dated 13.5.2005 and 10.6.2005, the Directors In-charge of Handlooms of all State/UTs and Officer in-charge, Weavers' Service Centre have

been requested to take necessary steps to intensify the coverage of women weavers under the IHTP Scheme. Also, Weavers Service Centre in their in review meeting are being emphasized for release of advertisement in news paper to highlight the activities and also to attract the trainee including women under various training programmes. However, provision for allocation of some seats for women weavers in various training programmes and for allocating separate budget for the training programmes meant for women weavers would be considered while getting renewal/extension of the Scheme from the Competent Authority & subject to the approval of the Competent Authority.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee note that marketing promotion programme of the Ministry is an integrated scheme which includes components for publicity and awareness, setting up of marketing complexes and organization of exhibitions and fairs through various agencies to promote the marketing of handloom in the country. The Committee find that only 94 such exhibitions have been organized during the last four years under this scheme. However, no exhibitions have been organized exclusively for women weavers so far. The Committee desire that not only more such exhibitions be organized but some of them should be organized exclusively for women weavers as it would definitely help in providing better market facilities to them. Besides, such exhibitions should be organized in suburban and small towns also as people of those areas, who do not go to far off places, may avail the benefits of such exhibitions, thereby improving the sale/marketability of products of handloom sector.

**(Para No. 94)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

During the last 4 years (2001-02 to 2004-05) 101 National / Special Handloom Exhibitions have been organized. Moreover, District level events have also been organized. In addition to the above, market avenues have been made available to the weavers in the form of Surajkund Mela, Shilparamam, Shilpgram, Udaipur Mela, Taj Mahotsav and Patiyala Heritage at various states to market their products. In view of the tremendous response received from the State Government to cater to the local needs of both the weavers and the public, the number of District Level Events have been doubled this year from 150 to 300 and the number of National Handloom Expos/Special Expos has also been increased. Since the schemes and programmes being implemented by this office are not gender specific, the benefits of the schemes percolate down to all



including women weavers. Therefore, increase in numbers of National/Special/District Level expos only means increase in the number of women participants.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee are happy to know that the Ministry are in constant touch with insurance company and they are in the process of finalization of insurance scheme to cover not only weavers but also their wives and two children under the insurance cover. The Secretary of the Ministry during evidence informed the Committee that the Ministry would get Rs.40 crore for two schemes which would cover 20 lakh weaver and contributions from States/weavers would be necessary for participating in these schemes. The Committee hope that the new insurance scheme would be announced at the earliest and the Ministry would ensure that the target fixed for the current year is achieved and funds sanctioned for the purpose are fully and timely utilized. The Committee further desire that the provisions contained in the new scheme be given wide publicity so that benefit of the new scheme could reach the targeted beneficiaries. In this regard, the Committee also desire the Ministry to take suitable measures to persuade the State Governments and motivate the targeted beneficiaries to contribute their share under the scheme.

**(Para No. 95)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

In pursuance of the Budget Announcement 2005-06 made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, the Government of India has introduced the Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana. The Health Insurance Scheme has been launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2005 and Mathatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2005.

The Health Insurance Scheme is implemented through the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana through LIC of India.

The ICICI Lombard and the LIC have given wide publicity to the Health Insurance Scheme and the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana. The Weaver Service Centers have also been instructed to ensure successful implementation of the scheme by giving wide publicity to the schemes. The Government of India has also been urging upon the State Governments to maximize the coverage

under the Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana. D.O. letters from DC(HL) have been sent to State Governments in this regard. Besides this, Secretary (Textiles) has also written to all Chief Secretaries vide letter dated 13 February 2006 to instruct the field machinery to educate the weavers about the benefits of the schemes and take all possible steps to enroll the maximum number of handloom weaver under both the schemes.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee have been informed that the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act was enacted in 1985 to protect the interests of handloom weavers in the country including women weavers from the encroachment made on their livelihood by powerloom and mill sectors. Under this Act, inspecting staff conduct surprise raids on powerloom units to find out any encroachment of 11 textile articles or class of articles reserved for exclusive production in handloom sector and also to take action against the defaulting unit. The Committee are happy to be informed that 1,39,000 units have been inspected under this Act and 188 cases of violation of this Act have been found and 146 have resulted in conviction. The Committee are of the firm view that there is an urgent need for implementation of this Act more effectively to protect the interest of the handloom weavers including women weavers from the encroachment made on their livelihood by powerloom and mill sectors. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to conduct surprise raids on powerloom units under this Act at regular intervals to find out encroachment, if any, made by them and to taken punitive action against the defaulting units.

**(Para No. 98)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

The authorities under the Act are implementing the Implementation of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 by undertaking surprise visits of powerloom units Mills from time to time and take action against the defaulting units found violating the provisions of the Act., 1985 However, the directions of the committee have been noted for compliance.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

From the figures made available to them, the Committee are constrained to find that there is under-utilization of funds during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. The Committee also find that there is a fluctuation in Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actuals during three years i.e. 2002-2003 to 2004-2005. They are equally concerned to note that against a lower actual expenditure in 2003-2004, the Government have enhanced its projection in budget estimates for 2004-2005, substantially. The Committee have not been informed the reasons therefore. The Committee also find that under Bunkar Bima Yojana the Budget Estimates were Rs.5.50 crore in the year 2004-2005, while the same were reduced substantially to Rs.1.95 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. Similarly, under Integrated Handloom Training Project the estimates were brought down to the level of 16.06 crore during the year 2004-2005 from Rs.24.35 crore in budget estimates. The Committee also find that under the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, the estimates were brought down to Rs.15 crore at Revised Estimates stage from Rs.20.00 crore at Budget Estimates stage during 2004-2005. The Committee take strong exception to such a casual approach of the Ministry and desire that budgetary exercise should be undertaken keeping in view the actual requirement so that the gap between budgeted estimates, revised estimates and actuals get minimized. The Government should adhere to fiscal prudence, avoid budgetary variations and made budgetary projection and estimates more realistic and accurate in future.

**(Para No. 99)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

Under most of the schemes being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, it is necessary for the State Governments to make adequate budgetary provision to meet the requisite State share as stipulated under the guidelines of the respective schemes. Often there is a considerable delay in the States for allocation of budget for the handloom sector. The estimation of budget at the BE stage is therefore made on the basis of past performance by the States under various schemes. The variations in the budget provision and the actual expenditure at the year end is mainly due to the fact that the State Governments furnish their claims at the end of the financial year and at times they are found not to be viable or in conformity with the guidelines of the schemes. As regards the observation of the Committee about the enhanced projection in budget estimates for 2004-05, it is stated that the higher projection made in 2004-05 has been spent almost upto 100% during the year and a sum of Rs.154.09 crore has been spent against the Budget Estimates of Rs.154.56 crore.

The State Governments are informed in the beginning of each financial year the need for timely submission of viable proposals to avoid lapse of funds and this is followed up with timely reminders. During the visits of senior officers of the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, the state governments are impressed upon the necessity to expedite viable proposals in time to avoid savings in the budget allocated for the handloom sector.

Since adequate viable proposals were not received under the Bunkar Yojana, the RE was kept at Rs.1.95 crore during 2004-05. Under the Workshed-cum-Hosing Scheme, the budget was reduced by the Competent Authority from Rs.20.00 crore to Rs.15.00 crore. As regards Integrated Handloom Training Project the observation of committee has been noted for future compliance.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee have been informed that the monitoring of various schemes is being done by the Directors of Handloom of concerned State Governments and their field level officers. The Committee note that the Central Government monitor these schemes through periodic returns, physical and financial progress reports of the State Governments in respect of the sanctioned projects. Taking note of under-utilization of funds allocated for a number of schemes, inadequate publicity and public awareness among targeted beneficiaries i.e. weavers specially women weavers which resulted in the poor implementation of the schemes, the Committee feel that the existing monitoring mechanism is not adequate and effective and there is an urgent need for strengthening the existing monitoring mechanism both at the Centre and in the States. The Committee are not happy to be informed by the representative of the Ministry that this is basically a State Subject and the Ministry monitor the physical and financial aspect. The monitoring mechanism is virtually zero in the field. The Committee are of the view that only through regular monitoring of the implementation of the schemes, the objectives of the schemes i.e. development and welfare of weavers can be achieved. They, therefore, desire that specific guidelines with regard to monitoring of schemes should be issued at the regular intervals by the Ministry to the State Governments/Director of Handloom/other implementing agencies responsible for the proper implementation of the schemes. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take suitable steps in strengthening the existing monitoring mechanism.

**(Para No. 100)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

The State Governments have frequently been requested to monitor the progress of the implementation of the schemes. During the field visits of the Senior Officers from the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, the need for timely completion of the projects and utilization of funds is stressed upon the State Governments.

Review mechanism in the form of Review Committee has also been constituted in the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms in respect of Handloom Export Scheme.

The Mill Gate Price Scheme is being implemented through National Handloom Development Corporation. The monitoring mechanism has been strengthened by way of regular monitoring of the supplies of yarn made by the Corporation to the eligible agencies under the scheme.

Like-wise, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms keep taking review meeting with States to see the progress of the schemes.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee have been informed that under the existing mechanism for redressal of grievances at Central/State/District level, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has designated and notified a senior officer as Public Grievance Redressal Officer. The Committee are surprised to note that except 156 complaints received in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Nagaland, no complaint has been received from any women weavers during the last one year. The Committee are inclined to conclude that the existing redressal mechanism is not adequate. The Committee do not agree with the Ministry that no complaints have been made by weavers in other States, keeping in view the fact that the implementing agencies/State Corporations/Banks deal with the weavers in respect of financial transactions, supply of raw materials and other related issues. Though information about the existence of such a Cell is available on the website, the Committee feel that as the weavers are generally illiterate they may not be aware such a mechanism. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to set up such Grievance-Redressal mechanism at State level also. They are also of the opinion that the complaint boxes be made available at the field level offices so that the weavers could drop their complaints/grievances in

these boxes. The Committee would like to be informed about the action in this regard within three months after the Report is presented.

**(Para No. 101)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

Vide this office letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006, all State Directors-In-charge of Handlooms and Textiles have been directed to set up Grievance Redressal mechanism in these States so that the grievances of women weavers in particular are resolved quickly. The information from Kerala & Bihar in this respect is as under:-

In respect of Kerala, as per the directions contained in the Report, proposals had been submitted vide HL/P2/1450/06 dated 24.02.06, to nominate Shri R. Rangaraja Iyyenkar, Joint Director of Handloom & Textiles as State Grievance Redressal Officer and to constitute Grievance Redressal Cell in the Directorate headed by the senior most officer R.Rangaraja Iyyenkar, Joint Director of Handloom & Textiles with Deputy Director (Enforcement), Deputy Director(Co-op)/Deputy Registrar in the Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, and the District Level, Managers/Deputy Registrar dealing with Handloom in the District Industries Centres and Assistant District Industries Officers in the Taluk Industries Officers are to be declared as District Level and Taluk Level Grievance Redressal Officers. Administrative Sanction is also sought for making of 78 Complaint Boxes in wood. On receipt of Government sanction, the system will be incorporated in the functioning of the Department.

In respect of Bihar, the State Government has set up Grievance Redressal Mechanism at State Level under Director of Industries/Handloom & Sericulture and also in all districts under General Manager of Industries/Deputy Development Officer (Textile)/Assistant Registrar, Bunkar and Handloom and all Assistant Directors of Industries (Resham) where complaint Boxes have been kept.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

**CHAPTER III****OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE  
COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE  
IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT****Recommendation**

The Committee note that National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facilities through State Cooperative Banks, District Central Cooperative Banks and Commercial Banks at concessional rate of interest to meet the working capital requirements of the handloom weavers including women weavers of the Weavers' Cooperative Societies and State Handloom Development Corporations for production, procurement and marketing facilities as well as the purchase and sale of yarns. The Committee find that a number of schemes have been introduced by the Government to provide credit/financial facilities and raw materials like yarn to handloom weavers. Under Swarajgar Credit Card Scheme, Government provide adequate and timely credit to small artisans, handloom weavers from the banking system in a flexible, hassle-free and cost effective manner and 1,50,615 such credit cards were issued during the year 2004-05. Under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), Government extend financial facilities to the weavers. This is the only Scheme which contains special provisions for women weavers. Under this Scheme a provision exists for an enhanced ratio of Central assistance of 90% project cost for those Cooperative Societies in which 100% members are women. Under Mill Gate Price Scheme, the Government makes available all types of yarn at mill gate price to eligible handloom weavers so as to facilitate regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector. However, this Scheme is not gender specific. Besides these Schemes introduced by the Govt., PMO has also been requested by the Ministry to consider (i) setting up of a corpus of Rs.100 crore to meet the differential cost effective lending under NABARD refinance through State Cooperative Banks/District Central Cooperative Banks; (ii) to make the credit available to handloom sector under differential rate of interest at the rate of 4% with enhanced upper ceiling of Rs.15,000 per weaver/artisan. The Committee are of the view that these steps/measures taken by the Ministry would go a long way to mitigate the financial hardships of the weavers, specially women weavers and State Handloom Corporations. The Committee, however, desire the Government to take appropriate steps and chalk out a time-bound programme so that credit cards be distributed to all the weavers under Swarajgar Credit Card Yojana (SCCY) and maximum number of weavers, particularly women weavers could derive the benefits of SCCY. The Committee further urge the Ministry to pursue the matter with the PMO for expediting decision on these proposals so

as to improve financial health and management of the Weavers' Cooperative Societies as well as weavers.

**(Para No. 88)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has written to Ministry of Finance to issue necessary directions to the banks for preparing a time bound programme for issue of the Credit Cards to the weavers, including women and send the same to us at the earliest. I would also request to fix the year-wise targets for issue of the Credit Cards to the handloom weavers alongwith the reporting system separately for the Handloom Sector.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendation**

The Committee are not happy to be informed that the committed liabilities towards the projects sanctioned under erstwhile scheme viz. Project Package Scheme, Integrated Handloom Village Scheme, Margin Money for Destitute Weavers and Handloom Development Centres were met out of the budget provisions under DDHPY heads from 2001-02, even though no special dispensation was made in respect of women weavers in the erstwhile schemes. The Committee would like the Ministry to utilize funds allocated under DDHPY for improving infrastructure facilities for product diversification and quality upgradation rather than on the liabilities or erstwhile Schemes, otherwise the very purpose of special provisions for women weavers under the scheme would be defeated.

**(Para No. 91)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

After discussions held with the representatives of Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission and in order to attempt provision of inputs for overall development of the sector under one integrated scheme, the components of PPS, IHVD and Freelance Designer Scheme were merged into the DDHPY scheme so as to achieve better convergence and coordinated approach for the development of the sector. Hence the provision was kept in the DDHPY scheme to meet the liabilities already created under the erstwhile schemes for subsequent releases and completion of the projects sanctioned.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**



## **Recommendation**

The Committee find that the projects under DDHPY Schemes are sanctioned by the Government only when the State Government certifies the availability of adequate budget provision with the State to match its requisite share under the project. According to the existing guidelines of the scheme, it is necessary for the State Government to make adequate budget provisions in the State to match its requisite share under the project. The Committee are of the view since the Central Government is responsible for the formulation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development and promotion of handloom sector and welfare of the weavers, it is also the responsibility of the Ministry to provide necessary support to the needy weavers. In this regard, the Committee desire the Ministry to persuade the concerned State Governments to make adequate provisions for these schemes in their budget so that the poor weavers specially women weavers are not deprived of the benefits available to them under the Schemes. The Committee also desire the Ministry to take appropriate steps in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission to allocate sufficient funds for these schemes from Central plan allocation.

**(Para No.92)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

Under the Centrally sponsored schemes the provisions are being made by the Central Government to meet its share under the schemes. The State Plans are discussed in the Planning Commission wherein the representation of the Centre is also there. It is the prime duty of the State Government to keep provision for funds for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The proposals for State Budget are also being considered in the Planning Commission on priority basis.

In respect of various scheme being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner, on receipt of the viable proposals from the State Governments, the Government of India, releases funds to the State Governments. Planning Commission allocates the funds for different sectors within which the scheme-wise budget allocation is made for the handloom sector.

As far as Handloom Export Scheme is concerned, though it is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme yet State Share is not insisted upon for implementation of an export project by virtue of the flexible guidelines of the scheme. The implementing agencies are allowed to bear the matching share for implementation of the project and hence the eligible handloom agencies having women weaver are open to undertake/execute an export project under the Scheme.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendation**

The Committee find that in order to provide enhanced insurance coverage to handloom weavers, the Government of India have introduced in 2003 a special contributory insurance scheme called 'Bunkar Bima Yojana' which is a combination of 'Janshree Bima Yojana and 'Add-on Group Insurance Scheme' and is being implemented in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Under this scheme, insurance cover is provided in cases of natural and accidental deaths. The Committee are informed that in 2004-05 only 201152 weavers have been covered which according to the committee is not a satisfactory coverage. They feel that there is a need for further increasing the coverage under this scheme. The Committee also find that the Government have released Rs.21.43 lakh to the State Governments for carrying out Publicity Campaign under this scheme. The Committee desire that the Ministry should ensure that these funds are properly and timely utilized by the State Governments in order to create awareness among the beneficiaries especially women about the benefits of the scheme.

**(Para No. 96)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

The Bunkar Bima Yojana was introduced in December 2003, which was in existence upto September 2005, till the launching of the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana on October 2, 2005. During the period of its implementation, the coverage under the Bunkar Bima Yojana was as under:

2003-04	- 33,982
2004-05	- 2,13,600
2005-06	- 94,712 (up-to September 2005)

The total coverage under the scheme was 3,42,294 handloom weavers.

The State Governments had been requested to carry out wide publicity of the Bunkar Bima Yojana.

It may be mentioned here that the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana has been launched during the financial year 2005-06 in place of the earlier Bunkar Bima Yojana and the coverage under the MGBBY from October 2, 2005 to March, 2006 has been 2,04,894 weavers.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION.**

#### **Recommendations**

The Committee have been informed that the Government have introduced a number of schemes for the development of handloom sector and welfare of the handloom weavers in the country. At present, 11 such schemes are being implemented by the Development Commissioner for Handloom. The Committee find that no gender specific schemes are being operated by the Ministry in spite of the fact that out of the 65 lakh weavers, there are 32.27 lakh women weavers as revealed by the Census conducted during 1995-96. In this regard, the Ministry of Textiles have informed the Committee that they are not implementing any gender specific schemes as the Department of Women and Child Development, being the nodal Department for women and child development, are implementing specific schemes for women. They have further informed the Committee that though the schemes and programmes implemented by the Government are not gender specific, however, the benefits of such schemes percolate down to women weavers also. The Committee are not satisfied with the reasons given by the Ministry in this regard. The Committee are of the view that women weavers, who have to discharge the dual responsibility of looking after their household as well as earning livelihood, face many problems arising out of the drudgery of job, less productivity and poor marketing and also various health problems caused by the nature of their job. The Secretary, during evidence, admitted that there is a need to give "special focus on the training and upgradation of their skills and also to improve their living conditions. We should be more sensitive to the cause from this year onwards". The Committee are of the opinion that women weavers have special needs which have to be addressed, taking into consideration the problems faced by them on day to day basis and this cannot be done in the absence of any gender specific schemes. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to formulate specific schemes exclusively for women weavers and also incorporate specific provisions, for the benefit of women weavers in the existing schemes to cater to their needs.

**(Para No. 84)**

#### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

It is reiterated that in various schemes being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom, weavers including women weavers are taken care of. The Health Insurance Scheme covers specific needs

of women weavers. It provides maternity benefits and baby coverage, which are specific needs of the women weavers.

The Director in-charge of Handlooms of all States/UTs & Officers In-charge of Weavers' Service Centre have been requested to take necessary steps to intensify the coverage of women weavers under the Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP) Scheme.

Under Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, for such implementing agencies which have 100% beneficiary members as SC/ST/Women/Minorities, the sharing pattern between the Centre and the State is 75:25 which clearly indicates the concern of the Government of India to women weavers.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

### **Recommendations**

The Committee have been informed that under the 'Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme' introduced with the objective of providing dwelling units and suitable work place to weavers so as to improve their productivity, quality of life and earnings, 12008 Workshed-cum-Houses were sanctioned to weavers during the year 2004-05. The Committee emphasise the need to construct, without further delay, these Workshed-cum-Houses in or around those places where these weavers are concentrated. The Committee would like to be apprised of the status of construction of such Worksheds within a period of three months of the presentation of the Report.

**(Para No. 97)**

### **Reply of the Ministry of Textiles**

The State Governments have been requested to construct the workshed/workshed-cum-Houses sanctioned to the States during the period 2004-05 immediately and send the Utilization Certificate and. physical progress report.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M.No.2(48)/2005-DCHL/Parl. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006)**

**CHAPTER V**

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE  
GOVERNMENT HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES**

- Nil -

**NEW DELHI**  
**10<sup>th</sup> November, 2006**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Kartik, 1928 (Saka)**

**KRISHNA TIRATH**  
**CHAIRPERSON**  
**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

## APPENDIX I

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para No.	Ministry/Department	Observations/Recommendations
1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	7	Ministry of Textiles	While expressing their concern over lack of gender specific schemes for women weavers, the Committee in their Original Report had opined that the special needs of women weavers could not be addressed. The Committee had desired the Ministry to formulate specific schemes exclusively for women weavers and also incorporate specific provisions for the benefit of women weavers in the existing schemes to cater to their needs.
2.	8.	Ministry of Textiles	The Committee are dismayed to note the action taken reply furnished by the Ministry stating that in various schemes being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom, weavers including women weavers are taken care of. Though on the one hand, the Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, during evidence had admitted that there was a need to improve the living conditions of women weavers and assured the Committee that they would be more sensitive for their cause from this year onwards. The reply of the Ministry is stereotyped and does not commensurate with the assurance given by the Secretary before the Committee. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry should have explored the possibilities of modifying the ongoing schemes to incorporate specific provisions for women weavers as also formulating new schemes. The Committee feel that unless and until specific schemes are formulated keeping in view their special needs, their living conditions cannot be improved. The Committee, therefore, while reiterating their original recommendation desire that the Ministry should take appropriate steps in this direction.
3.	12.	Ministry of Textiles	The Committee in their earlier Report had desired the Ministry to take appropriate steps for maintaining separate data/record regarding the women weavers availing various benefits under the schemes being implemented by the Government.

## 4. 13. Ministry of Textiles

The Committee are disappointed to note the casual reply furnished by the Ministry that National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) has been advised to maintain a data/record regarding the women weavers availing benefits of the scheme. As regards other schemes, the Ministry have stated that since the schemes are being implemented through State Governments and various other agencies, the data/record regarding the women weavers does not come directly to the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms). The Committee are not convinced with the reasoning of the Ministry. They are of the view that the Ministry can not absolve themselves of their responsibilities and wash their hands off simply by stating that the schemes are being implemented by other agencies. The Committee feel that the availability of such data/record would be of immense help to the Ministry in formulating specific schemes for women weavers as well as incorporating provisions in the existing schemes for the benefit of women weavers. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Ministry should collect the data/record regarding the number of women availing the benefit of the schemes of the Ministry of Textiles (scheme-wise) since the past three years and maintain the data from this year onwards which would definitely serve as a useful input while formulating new schemes for women weavers.

## 5. 16. Ministry of Textiles

The Committee in their Original Report had desired the Government to work out ways and means to provide credit to women weavers at concessional rates under consultation with the Ministry of Finance/banking institutions. The Committee are not convinced with the reply of the Ministry that a proposal to provide credit guarantee scheme for credit facilities to all weavers, including women weavers, at a lower rate of interest is already under consideration of the Government. The Committee are particularly concerned about the credit facilities for women weavers since they feel that women weavers, who generally belong to poor strata of society, find it difficult to avail credit facilities due to higher rates of interest. Providing them credit facilities at concessional rates would immensely help to improve their working conditions. The Committee, therefore, would like to reiterate their earlier recommendation that suitable steps to provide credit facilities to women weavers at concessional rates may be taken urgently.

## 6. 19. Ministry of Textiles

From the action taken notes furnished by the Ministry, the Committee are surprised to note that after a period of six months of presentation of their Report, the Ministry, who were expected to furnish the status of construction of such Worksheds, have simply replied that the State Governments have been requested to construct the worksheds immediately and send the utilization Certificate and physical progress report. The Committee are of the view that mere issuance of instructions have not served any purpose which is evident from the fact that the Worksheds sanctioned to weavers during the year 2004-2005 have not been constructed so far. The Committee feel that failure to provide a specific information in this regard itself does not speak favourably about the Governments efforts. Apparently, the Ministry are taking undue time in collecting the utilization certificate and the physical progress report. The Committee desire that the Ministry should take up the matter at the appropriate level to get the workshed/workshed-cum-houses completed without further delay. The Committee hope that information regarding construction of worksheds under the 'Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme' State-wise would be furnished to them without further loss of time.

## 7. 24. Ministry of Textiles

From the Action Taken Notes submitted by the Ministry, the Committee find that so far only two States have set up Grievance Redressal Mechanism. The Committee feel that setting up of Grievance Redressal Mechanism by only two States is an indication of failure on the part of the Ministry in implementing the recommendation of the Committee in true sense. The Committee are of the view that Grievance Redressal Mechanism is essential for redressing the grievances of weavers as it is the pre-requisite for the development of any sector. The Committee, therefore, hope that the Ministry would take urgent concrete steps to get the Grievance Redressal Mechanism set up in all the States.



**APPENDIX II**

(Vide Para 1.2 of the Report)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (14<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)**

(i).	Total No. of Recommendations	- 19
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: Para Nos. 83, 85, 86, 87, 89, 90, 93, 94, 95, 98, 99, 100 and 101	
	Total	13
	Percentage	68.42%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government: Para Nos. 88, 91, 92 and 96	
	Total	4
	Percentage	21.05%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations, replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: Para Nos. 84 and 97	
	Total	2
	Percentage	10.53%
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies have not been received.	
	Total	Nil

**PART II****MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2006-2007)**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 from 1130 hours to 1300 hours in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Smt. Krishna Tirath** - Hon'ble Chairperson

**MEMBERS****LOK SABHA**

2. Smt. Sushila Kerketta
3. Smt. Manorama Madhvaraj
4. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
5. Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi
6. Prof. M. Ramadass
7. Smt. Minati Sen
8. Smt. C.S. Sujatha
9. Shri P. C. Thomas

**RAJYA SABHA**

10. Smt. Prema Cariappa
11. Kumari Nirmala Deshpande
12. Smt. N.P. Durga
13. Smt. S.G. Indira
14. Smt. Brinda Karat

**WITNESSES**

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**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri S.K. Sharma - Additional Secretary
2. Shri J.P. Sharma - Joint Secretary
3. Smt. Veena Sharma - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri V.P. Goel - Assistant Director

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the draft Action Taken

Report on the subject '**Working Conditions of Women in Handloom Sector**'. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Action Taken Report and authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Report and present the same to Parliament.

- |    |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | X | X | X | X |
|    | X | X | X | X |
4. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

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