

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6249  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013  
HANDLOOM RESERVATION ACT  
Mani Shri Jose K.

**Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether new technological developments like screen printing and computer aided embroidery design system have made the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 redundant;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its impact on the livelihood of embroiders and block-printers;
- (c) whether the share of handloom sector in the overall allocation for the textile sector has steadily declined; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) No Madam. The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 has been enacted to protect the interest of poor handloom weavers and rich cultural heritage of the country. Presently 11 textiles articles are reserved with certain technical specifications for exclusive production on handlooms, namely, (1) Saree, (2) Dhoti, (3) Towel, Gamcha and Angawastaram, (4) Lungi, (5) Khes, Bedsheet, Bedcover, Counterpane, Furnishing (including tapestry, upholstery), (6) Jamakkalam Durry or Durret, (7) Dress Material, (8) Barrack Blankets, Kambal or Kamblies, (9) Shawl, Loi, Muffler, Pankhi etc., (10) Woollen Tweed, (11) Chaddar, Mekhala/Phanek.

The Central and State Government implementing agencies are implementing the provisions of the Act in letter and spirit. During the year 2012-13, the implementing agencies have inspected 249344 powerlooms and also reported 72 cases of violation of the Act. The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 has no impact on the livelihood of embroiders and block-printers.

(c) & (d) No Madam. The share of plan allocation for handloom sector in the overall plan allocation for textile sector during the last 3 year is increasing. The year wise details are as follows:-

(Rs. in Crores)

BE (2010-11) BE (2011-12) BE (2012-13)

Allocations to Handlooms 426.00 660.00 3253.00

Allocations to Ministry of Textiles 4725.00 5000.00 7000.00

The allocation to handloom sector in 2012-2013 was higher due to Revival, Reform and Restructuring package for loan waiver of handloom sector, for which Rs.2450 crore was allocated during 2012-2013.