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STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(2012-13)

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**'WELFARE OF SMALL WEAVERS IN MAU AND ADJOINING
AREAS-A CASE STUDY'.**

THIRTY- EIGHTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2013/Shravana, 1935 (Saka)

THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT

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(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**'WELFARE OF SMALL WEAVERS IN MAU AND ADJOINING
AREAS-A CASE STUDY'.**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 13th August, 2013

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 13th August, 2013



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2013/Shravana, 1935 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR**(2012-13)****SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN****MEMBERS**
LOK SABHA

2. Shri Ismail Hussain
- *3. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
4. Dr. Virendra Kumar
5. Shri Nara Hari Mahato
6. Shri Hari Manjhi
7. Shri Bal Kumar Patel
8. Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy
9. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan)
10. Shri Dinubhai Boghabhai Solanki
11. Shri Makhan Singh Solanki
12. Shri K. Sugumar
13. Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai
- **14. Shri Ashok Argal
- ***15. Smt. J. Shantha
- ****16. Shri Suresh Kashinath Taware
- ****17. Dr. Manda Jagannath
- ****18. Shri Ratan Singh
- ****19. Shri Om Prakash Yadav
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. T. Ratna Bai
23. Shri D. Bandyopadhyay
24. Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot
25. Shri P. Kannan
26. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
27. Shri Ranbir Singh Parjapati
28. Smt. Renubala Pradhan
29. Shri Rajaram
30. Shri G.N. Ratanpuri
31. Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Singh

-
- * Ceased to be Member of the Committee consequent upon his nomination to Standing Committee on Commerce *w.e.f.* 13th December, 2012.
- ** Nominated *w.e.f.* 9th January, 2013.
- *** Nominated *w.e.f.* 19th March, 2013.
- **** Nominated *w.e.f.* 1st May, 2013.

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri P.V.L.N Murthy - Director
3. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Additional Director
4. Smt. Bharti S. Tuteja - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour (2012-13) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf, do present this Thirty-Eighth Report on 'Welfare of Small Weavers in Mau and Adjoining Areas-A Case Study'.

2. The Committee while taking note of the pitiable working conditions of the small weavers of Mau and adjoining area and finding non-implementation of any social security schemes for these poor weavers, undertook a study visit to Mau in January, 2013, to get first hand information of the plight of these workers. The Committee, thereafter, selected the subject for detailed examination.

3. The representatives of the Ministry of Textiles also tendered evidence on 3.5.2013.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of Ministry of textiles for placing before them their views and also for providing detailed written notes and information solicited by them on the subject.

5. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Report at their sitting held on 29.5.2013.

6. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations/ Recommendations have been printed in bold type in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
August, 2013
Shravana, 1935 (Saka)

DARA SINGH CHAUHAN,
CHAIRMAN,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

REPORT

CHAPTER-I

Introductory

The Indian textile industry is extremely varied, with the hand-spun and handwoven sector at one end and the capital intensive, sophisticated mill sector at the other end of the spectrum. The decentralized powerlooms/ hosiery and knitting sector forms the largest section of the Textiles sector. The textile sector is the second largest provider of employment after agriculture.

2. The handloom sector provides employment to 43 lakh weavers/ workers and around 57 lakh weavers/ workers are estimated to be employed in decentralized Powerloom sector. Most of these weavers/ workers are based in rural areas and follow traditional practices.

FACTS

3. The attention of the Standing Committee on labour was drawn towards the pitiable conditions of the small weavers of Mau and

adjoining areas. The Committee was very concerned with the pathetic working conditions of small weavers, lack of infrastructure, their exploitation at the hands of contractors, outdated looms and absence of any social security schemes particularly for the powerloom weavers.

4. To ascertain the factual position, the Committee visited Mau in January, 2013 to interact with weavers/ workers of the area and found that:

1. The weavers are living in small one room houses which also doubles up as their work place with the loom installed in that very room.
2. The women of the family work throughout the night in extreme conditions to make yarn ready for weaving.
3. The weavers are exploited by the contractors who finance their looms and then pay them meager rates for their products.
4. The poor powerloom weavers are not able to sell their products in the open market.

5. The weavers are not aware of any scheme floated by the Government.
6. The looms installed at ITI, Mau for giving training to the students are outdated.
7. The looms installed in the area are of 0.5 to 1 horse power which has been done only to reduce manual effort.
8. There is no effort from the Government to guide them with designing and quality to produce marketable products.
9. The reach of TUFSS has been negligible.

5. During the evidence held on 3.5.2013, the Secretary informed the Committee:

"...Three major initiatives have already been taken by the Ministry for upliftment and welfare of the powerloom sector on the recommendations of this hon. Committee. The first is the initiation of the powerloom survey; the second is the introduction of the health insurance scheme for powerloom workers; and the third is the scheme for *in situ* upgradation of powerlooms. We are also happy to inform you that the relaxation in norms of the RRR package and the extension of the cut-off date is also under consideration. The EFC note is at the final stage..."

6. Further, the Secretary stated:

"...The peculiarity of Mau is that it is neither fully handloom nor fully powerloom. So, we have been, on the advice of the Committee, first trying to propose change in the definition of handloom so that these products could also be covered. We did make a draft regulation. The Advisory Committee recommended it. However, before we could take it through the entire process, which involves an amendment, which as you know is a long process, there has been a strong objection to changing the definition the way we had proposed it. So, we convened another meeting of the Advisory Committee on 12th April and all these State Governments were of the view that the amendment as drafted would have an adverse effect on the handloom sector because it would be difficult to differentiate between the handloom and the powerloom. So, while we are concerned and want to come up with schemes for the small powerloom weavers within the entire powerloom sector which is very wide – there are big units and there are small units – but we would like to define that category of small powerloom weavers and think of what extra benefits could be given to handloom weavers other than the benefits which are already available for all powerloom weavers. We have constituted a Sub-Committee and it will very quickly give its report after visiting some of the States. The ToR of the Sub-Committee is to study different types of looms being operated by handloom weavers and handloom clusters across the country; to study the extent of modernisation and mechanisation being carried out in different parts of the country; the scope for further improvement and upgradation of looms to reduce drudgery without compromising with the quality of handloom fabric and possibly to replicate those interventions in other handloom clusters and pockets; to examine the feasibility of mechanising any two out of the three basic motions, that is shedding, picking and beating ; to reduce the drudgery and enhance productivity without losing the artistic creativity of weavers; to examine the possibility of categorising small powerloom units and weavers into a separate group so as to extend certain benefits on the lines of handloom weavers; to examine and analyse the present definition of handloom in view of changing scenario of textile

sector; to assess the impact of proposed change in the definition of 'handloom' on handloom sector and weavers; and to suggest changes, if required, in the present definition of 'handloom' with the objective of improving the living conditions of handloom weavers..."

7. When asked about the details of Handloom and Powerloom weavers in the Mau and adjoining area, the Ministry provided the following information:

Name of District	Handloom Weavers		Powerloom workers	
	(As per 2 nd census 1995-96)	(As per 3 rd census 2009-10)	(As per census 1995-96)	
Azamgarh	53139	40346	2219	Power loom survey 2011-12 is going on
Gazipur	17560	357	2131	
Mau	10169	3723	47804	
Balia	2859	-	61	
Total	83727	44426	52215	

8. As regards details of the female weavers involved in handloom and powerloom industry, following information was provided:

Name of District	No. of female weavers involved in handloom s (as per 3 rd census 2009-10)	No. of female workers involved in powerloom industry (as per census 1995-96)
Azamgarh	4841	244
Gazipur	39	213
Mau	372	6214
Balia	-	
Total	5552	6671

9. On being asked about the number of looms the following details were given:

Name of District	No. of power looms	No. of handlooms
Azamgarh		18421
Gazipur	Power loom	153
Mau	Survey 2011-	1800
Balia	12 is going on	
Total		20374

10. When asked further about the status of handlooms in the area, the Ministry in their reply stated that:

"Large numbers of handlooms in this area are traditional and require up-gradation; however no detailed/household survey has been done in these four districts. A part of the developmental activities, various technological interventions have been implemented in different handloom pockets of the country."

11. On being asked about the size of Powerloom Units in the area, the Ministry replied:

"The details of size of powerloom units are not available at present. However, the average size of the Powerloom unit in the area are 2-4 looms. At present the work of All India Powerloom Survey is going on and it is expected to be completed by June 2013."

12. Further, the Ministry stated that the details of number of Powerlooms in the area that are obsolete and require upgradation is not available. However in Mau and surrounding area, most of the powerlooms are shuttle plain looms which are 10 to 30 years old.

13. When asked about the performance of Weavers Service Centre in the area, the Ministry replied as follows:

"Mau and adjoining area falls under the jurisdiction of Weavers Service Centre (WSC), Varanasi and all the technical/design support is provided by WSC, Varanasi to the weavers of Mau and adjoining area.

920 handloom weavers of Mau and adjoining area have been provided training by WSC, Varanasi during last three years.

3 design exhibitions cum dyeing workshops have been organized by the WSC, Varanasi in the Mau and adjoining area."

14. As regards the efforts made by National Centre for Textile Design (NCTD), the reply of the Ministry was:

"Activities of National Centre for Textile Design (NCTD) are carried out through WSCs. NCTD provides design support to handloom weavers online and more than 1300 traditional and contemporary designs with technical details are available on the website, which can be downloaded free of cost by any weaver including weavers of Mau and adjoining area."

15. During evidence, a representative of the Ministry further stated that facility of designer is being provided at the cluster level, as in Mubarakpur cluster.

16. When asked about the coverage of Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, the Ministry gave the following information:

"Details about the number of weavers covered under the Health Insurance Scheme of Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme are given as under:

District	(2010-11)	(2011-12)
Mau	951	345
Gazipur	0	01
Balia	0	0
Azamgarh	10484	3623

"

17. On being asked about the efforts made for spreading awareness about various schemes, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:

"Awareness camps are organized for publicizing the scheme which is being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. Simultaneously, advertisements are also published in regional languages in the leading newspapers for the benefit of handloom weavers.

In respect of Powerloom sector schemes, seminar/workshop with Powerloom associations, Powerloom organizations and stakeholders are conducted by Powerloom Service Centre regularly for creating awareness about the schemes among the powerloom weavers. The advertisements and publicity of the Government schemes, Programmes, Training Programmes etc. are given in local newspapers. The Weavers/workers are also directly contacted to advise them to upgrade the skills & avail the benefits of the schemes etc. Further all the schemes and programmes are kept in website of the Office of the Textile Commissioner as well as Ministry of Textiles.

Schemes of Office of DC(Handicrafts) are publicized through website, distribution of brochures, catalogue etc. through Marketing & Service Extension Centres and also by organizing events, like seminar, workshops etc."

18. As regards coverage of the Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom workers, the reply of the Ministry is as follows:

Number of workers of the area covered under the Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers:

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Total
1295	1049	1016	1008	1152	5520

19. Further the Ministry stated that the workers/ weavers covered under the scheme who fulfill the eligibility criteria under the Group Insurance Scheme become eligible for scholarship for their children.

During the above period, scholarship has not been given as no eligible application was received.

20. The Ministry gave following figures in respect of exposure visits of powerloom weavers in that area during 2007-08 to 2011-12 are as under:

All India	Uttar Pradesh (including Mau area)	Mau area in U.P.
3009	563	120

21. Following figures in respect of Training Programmes organized for powerloom workers/ weavers of the area were provided:

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
83	148	120	25	30

22. The number of Exhibition / Buyer Seller Meet / Road Show organized during 2007-08 to 2011-12 in U.P. nearby city of the area are as under:

No. of Exhibition / Buyer Seller Meet / Road Show	
Total	Uttar Pradesh
59	6

Entrepreneurs of Mau have also participated in the events held at Meerut & Kanpur.

23. When asked about the steps taken by the Ministry to help the weavers who are not able to sell their products, the Ministry stated:

"The Regional office of the Textile Commissioner, Powerloom Service Centre of the office of the Textile Commissioner and Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) organize buyer seller meets wherein weavers are participating to sell / market the powerloom products directly to the customer by eliminating the middlemen. The advertisements of the government schemes, Programmes, Training Programmes etc. are released in local newspapers. The seminar/workshops are conducted for creating awareness about government schemes/programmes. The weavers are

directly contacted & advised to upgrade the skills, avail the benefits of the schemes etc."

24. On being asked about the efforts made by the Ministry to help poor Powerloom owners who are too small to take benefit under other ambitious schemes of the Ministry to upgrade their outdated powerlooms, the Ministry replied:

"Scheme for In-situ upgradation of plain powerloom is under consideration at Ministry of Textiles for 12th plan period. Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) provides subsidy for upgrading the technology in textile units including powerloom units. Automatic/ shuttleless powerloom are covered under TUFS. The TUFS has been announced to have been extended for 12th plan period."

25. When asked whether any scheme for financing the looms been floated by the Ministry to help poor weavers so that they can buy their own looms, the Ministry replied as follows:

"Under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Government of India is providing financial assistance to handloom weavers for purchase of new looms and accessories.

Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Textiles provides subsidy on investment in machinery for powerloom units for modernization / upgradation of the technology. In the 12th Five Year Plan under TUFS, an increased focus shall be given to the

Powerloom Sector as per Budget Announcements of Hon'ble Finance Minister 2013-14. Increased subsidies have been proposed for the Powerloom Sector."

26. As regards the steps taken by the Ministry to save the weavers from the exploitation by contractors/ middlemen, the Ministry stated:

"Government of India through Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme provides financial assistance to the State Governments and other eligible handloom agencies for organizing domestic as well as international marketing events for marketing of the handloom products directly to the general public/buyers/consumers, thereby reduces the dependence of weavers on middlemen /master-weavers. The marketing incentive component has not been discontinued rather it is being modified to ensure that benefit is passed on to handloom weavers. The 10% price subsidy on hank yarn and subsidized credit has been introduced with the objective to help weavers and primary societies to compete with powerloom and mill sector.

The Regional office of the Textile Commissioner/ Powerloom Service Centre / Powerloom Development Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) organize buyer seller meets wherein weavers are participating to sell / market the powerloom products by eliminating the middlemen. The advertisement/ publicity of the government schemes / Programmes/ Training Programmes are given in local newspapers, seminar/workshops are conducted for creating awareness about government schemes/programmes, weavers/ workers are directly contacted to advise them to upgrade the skills/ avail the benefits of the schemes etc so that they can be saved from exploitation by contractors/ middlemen."

27. When asked whether the Ministry has ever thought of any scheme for providing loan to the weavers from financial institutions at subsidized rates for buying homes as they live in miserable conditions, the Ministry replied:

"With an objective to provide subsidized/cheaper working capital to handloom weavers, a new component of institutional credit for handloom weavers under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme has been approved by the Government in December, 2011 wherein margin money assistance @ Rs.4200/- per weaver, 3% interest subvention for 3 years and credit guarantee through Credit guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises is provided for 3 years. The objective of this scheme is to provide subsidized working capital to handloom weavers for weaving related activities. The construction of house is not covered under the scheme. There is no scheme/proposal with Ministry of Textiles for providing loan to the powerloom weavers from financial institutions at subsidized rates for buying homes."

28. The Secretary, during evidence stated that a provision for Group WorkSheds is being considered in the proposed Integrated Powerloom Development Scheme which has been circulated for consideration by EFC.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

29. The Committee observe that the last Powerloom survey was conducted in 1995-96 and therefore the Ministry are not able to provide the figures relating to the number of powerlooms, powerloom weavers/workers and status of powerlooms and size of powerloom units in Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau and Balia. The Committee fail to understand the basis on which the Ministry are making budgetary allocations for the powerloom weavers/workers in absence of any up-to-date information about actual number of beneficiaries etc. The Committee feel that without having the latest data in respect of targeted population, neither the welfare schemes can be implemented successfully, nor the budgetary allocations justified. The Committee desire that to gauge the real situation prevailing on the ground, the regional offices of Textile Commissioner should conduct detailed periodical surveys for collecting information relating to number of powerloom weavers; size, condition and capacity of powerlooms and

powerloom units; average earnings of the powerloom weavers and ancillary workers; availability of raw material and infrastructural facilities; peculiar problems of the area; and the number of weavers migrating to other professions etc. The Committee desire that that the ongoing All India Powerloom Survey should strive to address the concerns raised by the Committee and once that survey is completed, the identified weavers could be issued I-cards so that the schemes meant for them could be implemented and monitored in a better way. The Committee desire that the decision to continue the office of Textile Commissioner at Kanpur may be expedited which the Committee also recommended in their 36th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Textiles so that benefits of various schemes to the poor weavers of that area could be ensured without further delay.

30. The Committee are also of the view that the Powerloom Service Centre in Mau has not been able to contribute anything substantial towards improvement of the working conditions of Powerloom Weavers of the area. The Committee desire that the

officers deputed in Powerloom Service Cente, Mau should visit the area periodically to have first hand knowledge of the problems being faced by these weavers and also disseminate the information about the various schemes of the Ministry and the training programmes being conducted by the Powerloom Service Centre to the weavers personally.

31. The Committee observe that there is a sharp decline in the number of handloom weavers in Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau and Balia in last two decades which indicates the failure of the schemes of the Ministry to sustain handlooms in these areas. The Committee are shocked to note that in Balia, Uttar Pradesh not even a single handloom weaver exists as per the latest handloom census. The Committee note that Ministry have not conducted any detailed /household survey in the area and has no information about the status of handlooms in the area. The Committee are of the firm view that the Ministry should take extra interest in these areas where the skill is dying and desire that a comprehensive survey of the area may

be conducted and reasons for dwindling number of handloom weavers be ascertained and area specific solutions be applied instead of a general approach as is being done by the Ministry at present.

32. The Committee note that only 920 handloom weavers of Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau and Balia have been trained by Weavers' Service Centre, Varanasi and only 3 workshops have been organized in the last three years . The Committee feel that given the plight of weavers in the area this is far too less an effort to make any impact. The Committee are of the opinion that extension centre of Weaver Service Centre, Varanasi, may be opened in Mau so as to cater to the needs of the weavers in the area. The Committee also desire that separate training programmes may be organized by the extension centre for women weavers/ workers and allied workers.

33. The Committee further note that most of the powerlooms in the area are shuttle plain looms which are 10 to 30 years old and, at present, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is the only scheme available for upgradation of these looms. The Committee also observe that in respect of restructured TUFs, there were only 5 cases out of a total 3741 approved cases where investment was less than 5 lakhs. The Committee, therefore, are of the firm opinion that small weavers have not been able to get any benefit under TUFs. The Committee desire that an alternative scheme for upgradation of looms in the area may be chalked out and a part of the TUFs allocation be kept exclusively for the benefit of the weavers of the areas where poorest of poor weavers reside and annual targets may also be fixed therefor.

34. The Committee, during their study visit to ITI, Mau, found that the looms installed for training purposes were very old and traditional. The Committee feel that the looms installed at the ITI and other centres in the area need to be upgraded at the

earliest. The Committee are of the opinion that the courses in trades relating to textile industry being offered in ITI, Mau need to be strengthened in order to make them market oriented. The Ministry of Textiles besides offering such courses themselves in the area under the 'Skill Development Initiative' may also take up the matter with the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the State Government to improve the courses and facilities in ITI, Mau.

35. The Committee observe that the National Centre for Textile Design provides design support to handloom weavers online and contemporary designs and technical details are available on their website. The Committee feel that giving on-line information to poor weavers who are not even sure of their daily earnings and hardly have any access to computers/internet, does not serve their purpose and is of no use for them. The Committee also note from the reply of the Ministry that designers are appointed at cluster level. The Committee are of the view that designer should also be

available at the Weaver Service Centre and Powerloom Service Centre who must visit households in the vicinity periodically to help the weavers produce marketable products. Further, the offices of DC (Handlooms) and Textile Commissioner should take steps to groom talented designers amongst the weaver community by giving them requisite training and exposure and thus work towards making the clusters self sufficient.

36. The Committee perused the low coverage of the insurance schemes of the Ministry viz. health insurance scheme for handloom weavers and Group Insurance Schemes for Powerloom workers. The Committee were surprised to note that not a single eligible application was received for scholarship which is a part of the Group Insurance Scheme for the workers. Further, on the training segment, only 406 powerloom weavers have been trained in last 5 years. The Committee would like to point out that implementation of schemes in respect of powerloom weavers has been pathetic and attribute this to absence of concerted efforts at field level

coupled with lack of awareness amongst the beneficiaries for whom the schemes are meant. The Committee view such lack of awareness about the schemes as the major reason for low coverage. The Committee desire that Ministry gear up their efforts to spread awareness about the schemes. The Committee may also be apprised of the steps taken in this regard.

Further, the Committee are of the view that whenever the Ministry launches any welfare scheme, an orientation session for Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies and other elected representatives be invariably organized by the Ministry through its regional offices as they are the public representatives and can better publicize the welfare schemes to the grass-root level of workers. The Committee also desire that brochures, preferably in local languages in respect of the schemes, be made available at the local post offices, gram panchayats and schools.

37. The Committee during their visit to Mau in January, 2013 found that the female family members of the weavers work whole night in extreme conditions to make yarn ready for weaving. The Committee were moved to see the pathetic living conditions of those female members. During the evidence the Committee were informed that the Ministry are proposing to provide worksheds to the weavers. The Committee are of the opinion that these common worksheds will not make much of a difference in ameliorating the plight of the female family members of weavers who have to ultimately work in their homes. They, therefore, desire the Ministry to take steps for betterment of their working conditions alternately by introducing a housing scheme for these poor weavers.

38. The Committee during their visit also saw that the poor weavers are exploited by the contractors who finance the looms and then pay meagre rates for the products. The Committee desire that a scheme for financing the looms for these weavers

be considered by the Ministry so that these weavers don't have to depend on and get exploited by the contractors.

The Committee are of the view that the Ministry should help these poor weavers in sustaining their livelihoods and saving them from the exploitation at the hands of contractors by fixing minimum price for each product on the lines of the MSP as is fixed for other commodities. The Committee further feel that if the weavers do not find buyers at these prices, the Ministry may in close coordination with State Governments arrange buyers for these products amongst the government departments/government aided/funded organizations and PSUs to help the weavers sell their products.

39. The Committee further desire that the office of the Textile Commissioner having the jurisdiction over the area should be pro-active in its approach and train the weavers in latest

trends, help the weavers in procuring orders from the buyers and in producing the required quality and quantity.

The Committee are also of the opinion that a marketing complex may be set up at Mau to help the weavers to buy, sell and market their products at competitive prices without any involvement of middlemen.

40. The Committee also observe that small powerloom weavers are marginalized in absence of social security schemes. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation made in their 36th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of textiles, that the amendment in the definition of 'Handlooms' may be made at the earliest and in such a way that these small powerloom weavers also get the benefits of the schemes meant for handloom weavers.

41. The Committee also reiterate the recommendation made in their 36th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-2014) of the Ministry of Textiles, that instead of implementing separate schemes for health insurance, the Ministry should endeavour to operate one umbrella scheme for all the weavers/ workers in the textile industry and the Ministry need to take up the issue of extension of RSBY with Ministry of Labour and Employment earnestly for all the weavers/ workers of the industry and not for the handloom weavers alone.

**New Delhi;
29 May, 2013
8 Jyaishta, 1935 (Saka)**

**DARA SINGH CHAUHAN,
CHAIRMAN,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR**

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on 3rd May, 2013 from 0930 hrs. to 1050 hrs. in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Dara Singh Chauhan – CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Dr. Virendra Kumar
3. Shri Narahari Mahato
4. Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy
5. Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai
6. Shri Ashok Argal
7. Dr. Manda Jagannath
8. Shri Om Prakash Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Renubala Pradhan
10. Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri A.K Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri P.V.L.N Murthy | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Ashok Sajwan | - | Additional Director |
| 3. | Smt. Bharti S. Tuteja | - | Deputy Secretary |

- | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 2. | XX | XX | XX |
| 3. | XX | XX | XX |
| 4. | XX | XX | XX |
| 5. | XX | XX | XX |

XX Do not pertain to this report.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

Sl.No	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Zohra Chatterji	Secretary
2.	Smt. Anita Agnihotri	AS & FA
3.	Shri V. Srinivas	Joint Secretary
4.	Smt. Sunaina Tomar	Joint Secretary
5.	Shri Balvender Kumar	DC (Handlooms)
6.	Shri S.S. Gupta	DC (Handicrafts)
7.	Shri A.B. Joshi	Textile Commissioner

6. The Committee then invited the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles and after welcoming them the Chairman invited their attention to the provisions contained in Direction 55 (1) of the Directions by the Speaker.

7. The Members, thereafter, raised the following points for clarifications from the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles:-

- (i) change of definition of Handloom
- (ii) need for awareness
- (iii) issuance of identity cards
- (iv) coverage of weavers in RSBY
- (v) provision of housing facilities
- (vi) identification survey of weavers

- (vii) weavers service centre
- (viii) benefits of TUFs in Mau and adjoining areas
- (ix) upgradation of looms
- (x) status of NTC mill at Mau
- (xi) availability of design for the weavers

8. The Chairman, thereafter, directed the Secretary to send written replies to the unanswered queries of the Members within three days.

9. The Chairman thanked the Secretary and other officials for giving valuable information to the Committee on various subjects.

(A copy of the verbatim proceeding of the sitting was kept for record.)

{The witnesses then withdrew}

The Committee then adjourned

Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on 29th May, 2013 from 1500 hrs. to 1720 hrs. in Committee Room `E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Dara Singh Chauhan – CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Ismail Hussain
3. Dr. Virendra Kumar
4. Shri Narahari Mahato
5. Shri Bal Kumar Patel
6. Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy
7. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan)
8. Shri K. Sugumar
9. Shri Ashok Argal
10. Smt. J. Shantha
11. Shri Om Prakash Yadav

Rajya Sabha

12. Smt. T. Ratna Bai
13. Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot
14. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
15. Smt. Renubala Pradhan
16. Shri Rajaram
17. Shri G.N. Ratanpuri
18. Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Singh

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| 10. | XX | XX | XX |
| 11. | XX | XX | XX |
| 12. | XX | XX | XX |
| 13. | XX | XX | XX |

The Committee then adjourned.

XX Do not pertain to this report.