

46

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(2013-2014)

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

**[Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/
Observations contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report of the Standing
Committee on Labour (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on `Welfare of small
weavers of Mau and adjoining areas- A case study']**

FORTY- SIXTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

March, 2014/Phalguna , 1935 (Saka)

FORTY-SIXTH REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(2013-2014)

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

**[Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/
Observations contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report of the Standing
Committee on Labour (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on `Welfare of small
weavers of Mau and adjoining areas-A case study']**

Presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 15.03.2014



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2014/Phalguna , 1935 (Saka)

CONTENTS

	PAGE(s)
<i>COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE</i>	<i>(iii)</i>
<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	<i>(iv)</i>
CHAPTER I Report.....	
CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government.....	
CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply.....	
CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.....	
CHAPTER V Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature	

APPENDICES

- I. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee.
- II. Analysis of the Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha)

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(2013-14)

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS
LOK SABHA

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

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

* Nominated w.e.f 17th December, 2013

SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Forty-Sixth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Welfare of small weavers of Mau and adjoining areas- A case study'.

2. The Thirty-Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 13th August, 2013. The Ministry of Textiles furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 06th December, 2013. The Standing Committee on Labour at their sitting held on 04th March, 2014 considered and adopted the draft report and authorized the Chairman to finalise the same and present it to the Hon'ble Speaker/Parliament.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

4. For the facility of reference and convenience recommendations/observations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
04th March, 2014
Phalguna ,1935 (Saka)

DARA SINGH CHAUHAN,
CHAIRMAN,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

CHAPTER-I

REPORT

This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Welfare of small weavers of Mau and adjoining areas- A case study'.

1.2 The Thirty-Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid on the Table in Rajya Sabha on 13th August, 2013. It contained 13 recommendations/ observations. Replies of Government in respect of all the recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

(i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government –

Para Nos. 30,31, 33 and 36

(ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply –

-NIL-

(iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration –

Para Nos. 32,34,35,37, 38, 39 and 41

(iv) Recommendation/Observation in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature -

Para Nos. 29 and 40

1.3 The Committee desire that action taken notes in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken notes in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-V for which only interim replies have been furnished by the Government may be given to them at the earliest.

A. Powerloom Survey

(Recommendation at Para 29)

1.4 The Committee observed that the last Powerloom survey was conducted in 1955 and therefore the Ministry were 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 felt 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 desired 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 desired 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.

1.5 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“The office of the Textile Commissioner has assigned a baseline survey of powerlooms to an Agency viz. M/s.AC Nielsen ORG-MARG Pvt. Ltd in the year April 2012.

The terms of reference of the survey was enlarged and it includes various parameters like number of powerloom weavers, size, condition and installed capacity, working capacity, average earnings of powerloom weavers / workers, raw material consumption, consumption of power etc. The Agency has submitted a draft report on the baseline survey of powerlooms on 25.07.2013. The draft report was examined and some deficiencies were observed therein.

The deficiencies observed in the draft report were conveyed to the Surveying Agency to rectify the same and incorporate necessary details in the draft report. The Agency is yet to submit its revised report. After receipt of the baseline survey report from the Agency, the Ministry will be in a position to assess the actual number of powerloom weaver/workers.

With regard to the continuation of the office of Textile Commissioner at Kanpur, it is to inform that this Ministry has already issued necessary office order for the continuation of the sub office of the Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner, Noida at Kanpur and the sub- office has started functioning in Kanpur w.e.f. 1st August, 2013.”

1.6 The reply of the Ministry states that the draft Report on baseline survey of Powerlooms was submitted by the designated agency on 25.7.2013 which was returned for rectification of certain deficiencies and incorporation of necessary details and that the agency has not submitted their revised Report as yet. The Committee desire that the submission of the Report by the agency may be expedited so that Ministry are able to initiate measures including issuance of I-cards to the identified weavers. The Committee further desire that once the final Report of baseline survey is received and examined in the Ministry, the upgradation of Kanpur sub-office to a regional office may be considered.

B. Extension Centre of Weavers Service Centre, Mau

(Recommendation at Para 32)

1.7 The Committee noted 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 felt that given the plight of weavers in the area this is far too less an effort to make any impact. The Committee were of the opinion that extension centre of Weavers Service Centre, Varanasi, may be opened in Mau so as to cater to the needs of the weavers in the area. The Committee also desired that separate training programmes may be organized by the extension centre of women weavers/ workers and allied workers.

1.8 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“Mau is hardly 150 km away from Varanasi where a Weavers Service Centre already exists. More importantly, Mau is basically a powerloom dominated area. Therefore, a WSC in Mau may not be viable solution. However, Ministry of Textiles has undertaken skill development programmes under its Integrated Skill Development Scheme for the weavers in entire country. Training & other technical requirements of the weavers in Mau and adjoining area are being taken care of by the WSC, Varanasi.”

1.9 The Committee observe from the reply of the Ministry that a Weaver Service Centre (WSC) in Mau may not be a viable solution since Mau is a Powerloom dominated area and training and other technical requirements of the weavers of the area are being taken care of by the WSC, Varanasi. The Committee are not convinced with the reply of the Ministry since the reach of the training programmes have been dismal in the last three years and the poor weavers in the area cannot afford to go to Varanasi for basic technical requirements/inputs. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that only an extension centre of WSC, Varanasi may be opened in the area and not a full fledged centre. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that extension centre of WSC, Varanasi may be opened in Mau to cater to the needs of the weavers of the area which may also organize separate training programmes for women weavers and allied workers.

C. Revamping of courses at ITI, Mau

(Recommendation at Para 34)

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

1.11 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“The Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) is implemented by Ministry of Textiles since 2011-12 for skill upgradation of textile workers. Office of the Textiles Commissioner is one of the Implementing Agencies (IAs) under the Scheme for imparting skill upgradation training to powerloom weavers through its 14 Powerloom Service Centres (PSC) of which PSC, Mau is one among them. So far, PSC, Mau has trained a total of 40 candidates under ISDS. There are other IAs like, Textile Research Associations TRAs, State/Private Sector Agencies etc. which are implementing the ISDS in various States including Uttar Pradesh. Hence, it may be possible for ITI, Mau to get themselves designated as IA under the Scheme for which they can directly approach the Ministry of Textiles. The Cabinet Committee on Skill Development (CCSD) has approved the proposal for continuation and expansion of ISDS to train 15 lakh persons with an outlay of Rs. 1900 crore during 12th Plan. The

Government is providing assistance of Rs.10,000 /- per trainee for the skill development under the scheme for the 12th Five Year Plan.

As well as Handlooms Sector is concerned the matter has been taken up with Ministry of Labour and Employment to improve courses and facilities relating to handloom in ITI, Mau.”

1.12 The Committee note from the reply that the Ministry would like ITI, Mau to approach the Ministry and get themselves designated as Implementing Agency (IA) under the Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) of Ministry of Textiles. They are of the view that courses offered in Mau related to textile industry, particularly, Powerloom industry need to be aligned with the requirements of the industry for which the Ministry of Textiles should instead take the initiative and approach ITI, Mau and apprise them of the details of the scheme and do the needful. The Ministry has to be pro-active in their approach considering the training needs of the poor Powerloom weavers in the area. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the Ministry of textiles take up the matter with the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the State Government to improve the courses and facilities in ITI, Mau without any further delay in the matter.

D. Appointment of designers

(Recommendation at Para 35)

1.13 The Committee felt 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 purpose and is of no use for them. The Committee were of the view that designers 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.

1.14 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“Weavers Service Centres (WSCs) have separate design section with qualified and experience designers & most of the WSCs have been provided computer aided design software (CAD) system also.

Further, under cluster development projects of Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CDHS), designers are being appointed in clusters for product development/diversification with design inputs, training of local designers, documentation of designs/products and to establish market linkages. These designers interact with the Weavers’ Service Centres & other stakeholders from time to time. The designers are now proposed to be trained through National Institute of Fashion Technology to make them aware about contemporary designs as per market trends, color forecast etc.”

1.15 The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that Weavers Service Centre have separate design centre with qualified and experienced designers and that designers are appointed at cluster level under Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS) who also interact with the WSCs and stakeholders. The Committee had recommended that in-house talent may be identified out of the weavers and may be groomed. Further, the reply is silent in regard to facility of designers for poor Powerloom weavers. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the designer should be made available at Powerloom Service Centre who must visit the households and talented designers from within the weavers of the area may be groomed.

E. Housing Scheme for weavers

(Recommendation at Para 37)

1.16 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 of the opinion that the 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, desired the Ministry to take steps for betterment of their working conditions alternately by introducing a housing scheme for these poor weavers.

1.17 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“In order to provide working place; the Government of India is providing financial assistance for construction of worksheds under cluster development projects of Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme (CHDS). Financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- is provided to the weavers who are below the poverty line (BPL) and for non-BPL weavers, financial assistance of Rs.18,750/- is provided and the remaining is to be borne by the State Government/beneficiary. For construction of houses, weavers may avail assistance towards under Indira AwasYojana of the Ministry of Rural Development.”

1.18 The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that financial assistance for construction of worksheds is provided under Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS). The Committee observe that the female family members referred to in their earlier recommendation are the female members of the poor families who are engaged in Powerloom sector, mostly from their households, who cannot derive any benefit from the schemes meant for handloom weavers. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that Ministry may take steps for betterment of the working conditions of poor Powerloom weavers by introducing a housing scheme for them.

F. Exploitation of weavers by the contractors and middlemen

(Recommendation at Para 38)

1.19 The Committee during their visit also saw that the poor weavers were being exploited by the contractors who finance the looms and then pay meager rates for the products. The Committee desired 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 were also 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 felt 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.

1.20 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“Under Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme, financial assistance is provided for basic inputs i.e. purchase of new looms @ Rs.15000/- per loom, doobby @ Rs.4000/-, jacquard @ Rs.6000/- and accessories @ Rs.3000/- per weaver. Further, Government has approved working capital loan at 6% interest for handloom sector with margin money assistance of Rs.10,000/- per weavers and Credit Guarantee for three years through Credit Guarantee Trust fund for Micro Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). The objective of these interventions is to make weavers self sustainable so that weavers are not dependent on contractors and get exploited by them.”

1.21 The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that financial assistance is provided for basic inputs under Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS) and working capital loan is also available for handloom workers with margin money assistance and Credit Guarantee for three years. According to Ministry's own admission elsewhere in the Report that the area is Powerloom dominated. In that backdrop, they are unable to comprehend as to why the Ministry has repetitively responded only in respect of handloom weavers and has ignored the recommendations of the Committee which are more concerned about poor Powerloom weavers. The Committee reiterate their recommendation that the Ministry should help such weavers in sustaining their livelihoods and save 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 and the Ministry may in close coordination with State Governments arrange buyers for these products amongst the Government Departments/Government aided / funded organizations and PSUs etc to help the weavers sell their products.

G. Setting up of marketing complex at Mau

(Recommendation at Para 39)

1.22 The Committee had further desired 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 were 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.

1.23 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“As has already been stated in reply to Para 34, PSC, Mau is providing training for skill upgradation under ISDS and so far, the Centre has trained 40 persons to acquire knowledge in latest trends in production. The powerloom weavers in the economically weaker clusters using technology below par are not exposed to other areas using higher level of technology to produce diversified textile products or value added fabrics due to limited knowledge and financial constraints etc. With a view to overcoming such difficulties, the powerloom weavers in different clusters, are encouraged to visit other developed clusters to get familiarized with the benefit of upgraded technology, diversified products and the marketing techniques adopted in those clusters. Financial assistance is provided by the Government of India to meet the expenditure arising out of these exposure visits as part of the Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development. 51 powerloom workers in the year 2007-08 and 25 workers in 2008-09 from Mau cluster has availed the benefit of the Scheme and visited Surat. In the year 2010-11, 23 workers from Mau cluster availed the benefit to visit Tirupur. Each of the powerloom weavers / workers was

provided financial assistance towards actual to-and-fro train fare and incidental expenditure of Rs.2000/- per head. Though setting up of marketing complex is not a component of any of the powerloom sector Schemes, Buyer-Seller Meets (BSM) are regularly organized for enabling the powerloom units to sell their products at competitive price without involvement of any middlemen. The BSM is one of the components of ISPSD and financial assistance is provided for setting up of stalls. These are generally organized in developed powerloom clusters with reasonable marketing potential. However, one BSM is proposed to be organized in Mau shortly in association with Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL).”

1.24 The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that Powerloom Service Centre (PSC), Mau is providing training for skill upgradation under ISDS and 40 persons have been trained so far, 99 workers have been trained under Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development during last 5-6 years and Buyer Seller Meets are regularly organized. The Committee again observe that the Ministry has conveniently overlooked the recommendation of the Committee regarding setting up of marketing complex. They cannot but conclude that Ministry has no strategy to improve the conditions of poor Powerloom weavers except providing training to a miniscule number. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the Ministry should be pro-active in its approach and train the poor weavers in latest trends, help them in procuring orders from the buyers and in producing the required quality and quantity and actively consider setting up of a marketing complex at Mau to help such weavers to buy, sell and market their products at competitive prices without involvement of middlemen.

H. Amendment in definition of ‘Handlooms’

(Recommendation at Para 40)

1.25 The Committee also observed that small powerloom weavers are marginalized in absence of social security schemes. The Committee, therefore, reiterated 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.

1.26 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“In order to reduce the drudgery of handloom weavers and improve the productivity of handlooms, the Advisory Committee on Handlooms (Reservation of Article for Production) Act, in a meeting held on 10th December, 2012, under the chairpersonship of Secretary (Textiles), discussed the definition of handloom and recommended modifications in the definition of handloom. As per proposed definition of handloom, “handloom means any loom, other than powerloom; and includes any hybrid loom on which at least one process for weaving requires manual intervention or human energy for production” which under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 has been defined as “any loom other than powerloom”.

The issue of amendment of definition was, however, opposed by many handloom experts and civil society members in the National Consultation on Handloom Sector held on 1st March, 2013. Keeping in view the reservations expressed to the proposed amendment on the issue, and in particular how handlooms would then be differentiated from powerloom, the meeting of Advisory Committee was held on 12th April, 2014. The Advisory Committee then constituted a Sub-Committee to deliberate and analyse the concerning issues in greater details and submit recommendations to the Advisory Committee.

The Sub-Committee has now submitted its report on 29th October, 2013. The Sub-Committee has not recommended any amendment in the definition of handloom as mentioned in the Handlooms (Reservation of Article for Production) Act, 1985. However, to address the demand of powerloom weavers to extend facilities/concessions at par with handloom weavers, the Sub-Committee has made following recommendations:

- i. The unorganised and decentralised household powerloom weavers having maximum four powerlooms in a household and the powerloom having motor power upto one H.P. may be categorized into a separate group and the weavers of this category may be given priority under the existing powerloom schemes. The schemes under implementation for

powerloom sector offer the similar facilities/concessions being extended to handloom weavers.

- ii. Powerloom Mark may be introduced to give a brand value to powerloom products so that weavers are not tempted to trade under disguise of handloom products. This will also ensure that consumers get genuine products at reasonable prices.
- iii. Since the powerloom units require larger working capital and term loan, a scheme for making concessional credit to this category of powerloom weavers may be introduced.

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee would now be considered by the Advisory Committee under Ministry of Textiles.”

1.27 The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that the Sub-Committee has not recommended any amendment in the definition of ‘Handloom’ as mentioned in the Handlooms (Reservation of Article for Production) Act, 1985, however, to address the demand of powerloom weavers to extend facilities/concessions at par with handloom weavers, the Sub-Committee has recommended that the unorganised and decentralised household powerloom weavers having maximum four powerlooms in a household and the powerloom having motor power upto one H.P. may be categorized into a separate group and the weavers of this category may be given priority under the existing powerloom schemes. The recommendations of the Sub-Committee would now be considered by the Advisory Committee under Ministry of Textiles. The Committee are of the view that merely prioritising this category of workers may not serve the purpose unless the schemes for them are at par with those for handloom weavers or alternatively these poor Powerloom weavers are covered under the schemes meant for handloom weavers. They would like to be apprised of the decision of the Advisory Committee on the Report of the Sub-Committee at the earliest.

I. Umbrella health insurance scheme

(Recommendation at Para 41)

1.28 The Committee also reiterated the recommendation made in their 36th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) 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.

1.29 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“In 12th Plan period, the Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) is proposed to be implemented on RashtriyaSwasthyaBimaYojana (RSBY) pattern with an added facility of OP treatment for handloom weavers by Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE). At present the HIS scheme provides coverage of Rs.15,000/- per annum (out of which Rs.7500/- is for OPD) for a family of four members, while in RSBY the total coverage per family would be of Rs.37,500/- (Rs.7500/- and Rs.30,000/- for OP & IP treatment resp.) for a family of five members.

The scheme would be implemented incorporating OP treatment facility, by MoLE of Ministry of Textile except in Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu as RSBY is currently not being implemented in these states. Therefore, for Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the scheme will be implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms on the lines of RSBY. The modified HIS is proposed to be merged with RSBY of Ministry of Labour& Employment (MoLE) after a period of two years i.e. after 2014-15.”

1.30 The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that the Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) is proposed to be implemented on Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) pattern with an added facility of OP treatment for handloom weavers by Ministry of Labour& Employment (MoLE) and the modified HIS is proposed to be merged with RSBY after a period of two years i.e. after 2014-15. The Committee again find that the Ministry has altogether ignored the recommendation the Committee for operating an umbrella scheme for all the weavers/ workers. The

Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that instead of implementing separate schemes for health insurance, the endeavour should be to operate one umbrella scheme i.e RSBY for all the weavers/ workers 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.

CHAPTER-II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation No. 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 Centre, Mau should visit the area periodically to have firsthand 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.

Reply of the Government

Powerloom Service Centres are set up at various places including one at Mau with the objective of providing Consultancy / Trouble Shooting Services, imparting technical training for skill upgradation, providing textile testing for assessing the quality parameters of raw material and finished products like yarn and fabrics, developing new samples for product diversification, creating awareness about Technology Upgradation and modernization of the existing powerlooms. To accomplish these targets, Powerloom Service Centres are equipped with various types of looms like plain loom with dobby, jacquard and drop box, Shuttleless (Rapier) Loom etc. and give practical training to the trainees in skill development and also for sample development. Similarly, testing laboratory has been set up for providing testing of various parameters of yarn and fabrics. Apart from the above, the Powerloom Service Centre (PSC) is also periodically organising and conducting various Seminars / Workshops / Awareness Meetings etc for disseminating various schemes and initiatives of

Govt. of India for exclusive development of powerloom units in decentralized sector. PSC, Mau is also involved in conducting periodical powerloom survey so as to assess the working condition of the cluster, enrolling the powerloom weavers under Group Insurance Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Textiles in association with Life Insurance Corporation of India. The performance of the PSC, Mau for the last two years against the prescribed activities is as under:

S.No.	Particulars	2011-12	2012-13
1.	No. of samples tested	261	168
2.	No. of samples developed	91	86
3.	No. of consultancy/trouble shooting attended	135	259
4.	No. of units surveyed	828	905
5.	No. of seminars/workshop conducted	18	16
6.	No. of workers enrolled in the Group Insurance Scheme	794	1152

As desired by the Standing Committee on Labour in its 13th Report, the officers/staff posted in Powerloom Service Centre, Mau will be asked to make more number of periodical visits and interact with the powerloom weavers to disseminate the information on various developmental and welfare schemes of the Ministry of Textiles.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

(Recommendation No. 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 tht 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.

Reply of the Government

There has been a continuous decline in the number of handloom weavers across the country the over last few years. The decline is due to various reasons such as changing consumer preferences, low productivity, stiff competition with powerloom etc. To arrest the trend, the Ministry of textiles has introduced various schemes / programmes to support the weavers. There have been reports that during last census in some of the pockets in UP weavers were not fully covered for ID cards. The State government has been requested to identify those pockets and issue fresh ID cards after survey to the left out weavers. An All India Handloom Census is also planned in the in XII five year plans when fresh survey of handloom sector will be taken up.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

(Recommendation No. 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 TUFSS, 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 TUFSS. The Committee desire that an alternative scheme for upgradation of looms in the area may be chalked out and a part of the TUFSS 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 thereof.

Reply of the Government

In order to provide financial assistance to economically weaker low-end powerloom units to whom the benefits of the TUFSS has not reached, the Ministry of Textiles has approved the Scheme for In-situ Upgradation of Plain Powerlooms for SSI Powerloom Sector during the 12th Five Year Plan. The In-situ Upgradation Scheme is launched initially in 6 powerloom clusters including Tanda in Uttar Pradesh. It has also been recommended to include Mau Powerloom Cluster for initial launch of the Scheme. The Scheme will be extended to other powerloom clusters in due course of time. The total financial outlay including 1% towards administrative expenses for the 12th Five Year Plan is Rs.150.00 crore which is exclusively year-marked for In-situ Upgradation of Plain Powerlooms. Annual target is also fixed for In-situ Upgradation which is as shown below:

Target	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
No. of plain looms to be covered	21,120	25,960	25,960	25,960	99,000
Subsidy to be released	Rs.3168 lakh	Rs.3894 lakh	Rs.3894 lakh	Rs.3894 lakh	Rs.14850 lakh

Besides, in the Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RRTUFS) launched for the 12th Plan period, 10% allocation has been reserved for MSME Sector which will also benefit the weavers of powerloom sector falling under MSME category.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 27.11.2013)

(Recommendation No. 36)

The Committee perused 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 the 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 organised 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.

Reply of the Government

As far as handloom weavers are concerned, Government of India has been implementing Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) across the country with the components of (a) Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) to provide health care facilities and (ii) Mahatma Gandhi BunkarBimaYojana (MGBBY) to provide life insurance cover to handloom weavers in case of natural & accidental death and also for disability under MGBBY.

In 12th plan, the Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) is proposed to be implemented on RashtriyaSwasthyaBimaYojana (RSBY) pattern with an added facility of Out patient (OP) treatment for handloom weavers by Ministry of Labour& Employment (MoLE).

At present the HIS scheme provides coverage of Rs.15,000/- per annum (out of which Rs.7500/- is for OPD) for a family of four members, while in RSBY the total coverage per family would be of Rs.37,500/- (Rs.7500/- and Rs.30,000/- for OP & IP treatment resp.) for a family of five members. During 2012-13 the total 17.49 lakh beneficiaries were enrolled under HIS.

The Ministry appreciates the suggestions given by the Committee that whenever the Ministry launches any welfare scheme, an orientation session should be organized through its regional offices and also to distribute brochures at the local level. The Ministry of Textiles will take such steps while introducing welfare scheme in handloom sector.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

CHAPTER-III

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY**

NIL

CHAPTER-IV

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

(Recommendation at Para 32)

1.6 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 Weavers 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 of women weavers/ workers and allied workers.

1.7 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“Mau is hardly 150 km away from Varanasi where a Weavers Service Centre already exists. More importantly, Mau is basically a powerloom dominated area. Therefore, a WSC in Mau may not be viable solution. However, Ministry of Textiles has undertaken skill development programmes under its Integrated Skill Development Scheme for the weavers in entire country. Training & other technical requirements of the weavers in Mau and adjoining area are being taken care of by the WSC, Varanasi.”

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.9 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

(Recommendation at Para 34)

1.8 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.

1.9 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“The Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) is implemented by Ministry of Textiles since 2011-12 for skill upgradation of textile workers. Office of the Textiles Commissioner is one of the Implementing Agencies (IAs) under the Scheme for imparting skill upgradation training to powerloom weavers through its 14 Powerloom Service Centres (PSC) of which PSC, Mau is one among them. So far, PSC, Mau has trained a total of 40 candidates under ISDS. There are other IAs like, Textile Research Associations TRAs, State/Private Sector Agencies etc. which are implementing the ISDS in various States including Uttar Pradesh. Hence, it may be possible for ITI, Mau to get themselves designated as IA under the Scheme for which they can directly approach the Ministry of Textiles. The Cabinet Committee on Skill Development (CCSD) has approved the proposal for continuation and expansion of ISDS to train 15 lakh persons with an outlay of Rs. 1900 crore during 12th Plan. The Government is providing assistance of Rs.10,000 /- per trainee for the skill development under the scheme for the 12th Five Year Plan.

As well as Handlooms Sector is concerned the matter has been taken up with Ministry of Labour and Employment to improve courses and facilities relating to handloom in ITI, Mau.”

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.12 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 27.11.2013)

(Recommendation at Para 35)

1.10 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.

1.11 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“Weavers Service Centres (WSCs) have separate design section with qualified and experience designers & most of the WSCs have been provided computer aided design software (CAD) system also.

Further, under cluster development projects of Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CDHS), designers are being appointed in clusters for product development/diversification with design inputs, training of local designers, documentation of designs/products and to establish market linkages. These designers interact with the Weavers' Service Centres & other stakeholders from time to time. The designers are now proposed to be trained through National Institute of Fashion

Technology to make them aware about contemporary designs as per market trends, color forecast etc.”

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.15 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles’ O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

(Recommendation at Para 37)

1.12 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.

1.13 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“In order to provide working place; the Government of India is providing financial assistance for construction of worksheds under cluster development projects of Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme (CHDS). Financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- is provided to the weavers who are below the poverty line (BPL) and for non-BPL weavers, financial assistance of Rs.18,750/- is provided and the remaining is to be borne by the State Government/beneficiary. For construction of houses, weavers may avail assistance towards under Indira AwasYojana of the Ministry of Rural Development.”

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.18 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

(Recommendation at Para 38)

1.14 The Committee during their visit also saw that the poor weavers are exploited by the contractors who finance the looms and then pay meager 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.

1.15 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“Under Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme, financial assistance is provided for basic inputs i.e. purchase of new looms @ Rs.15000/- per loom, doobby @ Rs.4000/-, jacquard @ Rs.6000/- and accessories @ Rs.3000/- per weaver. Further, Government has approved working capital loan at 6% interest for handloom sector with margin money assistance of Rs.10,000/- per weavers and Credit Guarantee for three years through Credit Guarantee Trust fund for Micro Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). The objective of these interventions is to make

weavers self sustainable so that weavers are not dependent on contractors and get exploited by them.”

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.21 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles’ O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

(Recommendation at Para 39)

1.16 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.

1.17 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“As has already been stated in reply to Para 34, PSC, Mau is providing training for skill upgradation under ISDS and so far, the Centre has trained 40 persons to acquire knowledge in latest trends in production. The powerloom weavers in the economically weaker clusters using technology below par are not exposed to other areas using higher level of technology to produce diversified textile products or value added fabrics due to limited knowledge and financial constraints etc. With a view to overcoming such difficulties, the powerloom weavers in different clusters, are encouraged to visit other developed clusters to get familiarized with the benefit of upgraded technology, diversified products and the marketing techniques adopted in those clusters.

Financial assistance is provided by the Government of India to meet the expenditure arising out of these exposure visits as part of the Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development. 51 powerloom workers in the year 2007-08 and 25 workers in 2008-09 from Mau cluster has availed the benefit of the Scheme and visited Surat. In the year 2010-11, 23 workers from Mau cluster availed the benefit to visit Tirupur. Each of the powerloom weavers / workers was provided financial assistance towards actual to-and-fro train fare and incidental expenditure of Rs.2000/- per head. Though setting up of marketing complex is not a component of any of the powerloom sector Schemes, Buyer-Seller Meets (BSM) are regularly organized for enabling the powerloom units to sell their products at competitive price without involvement of any middlemen. The BSM is one of the components of ISPSD and financial assistance is provided for setting up of stalls. These are generally organized in developed powerloom clusters with reasonable marketing potential. However, one BSM is proposed to be organized in Mau shortly in association with Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL).”

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.24 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles’ O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

(Recommendation at Para 41)

1.28 The Committee also reiterated the recommendation made in their 36th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) 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.

1.29 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Textiles replied as under:

“In 12th Plan period, the Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) is proposed to be implemented on RashtriyaSwasthyaBimaYojana (RSBY) pattern with an added facility of OP treatment for handloom weavers by Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE). At present the HIS scheme provides coverage of Rs.15,000/- per annum (out of which Rs.7500/- is for OPD) for a family of four members, while in RSBY the total coverage per family would be of Rs.37,500/- (Rs.7500/- and Rs.30,000/- for OP & IP treatment resp.) for a family of five members.

The scheme would be implemented incorporating OP treatment facility, by MoLE of Ministry of Textile except in Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu as RSBY is currently not being implemented in these states. Therefore, for Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the scheme will be implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms on the lines of RSBY. The modified HIS is proposed to be merged with RSBY of Ministry of Labour& Employment (MoLE) after a period of two years i.e. after 2014-15.”

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.30 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles’ O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 27.11.2013)

CHAPTER-V

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE

(Recommendation No. 29)

The Committee observe that the last Powerloom survey was conducted in 1955 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 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.

Reply of the Government

The office of the Textile Commissioner has assigned a baseline survey of powerlooms to an Agency viz. M/s.AC Nielsen ORG-MARG Pvt. Ltd in the year April 2012.

The terms of reference of the survey was enlarged and it includes various parameters like number of powerloom weavers, size, condition and installed capacity, working capacity, average earnings of powerloom weavers / workers, raw material consumption, consumption of power etc. The Agency has submitted a draft report on the baseline survey of powerlooms on 25.07.2013. The draft report was examined and some deficiencies were observed therein.

The deficiencies observed in the draft report were conveyed to the Surveying Agency to rectify the same and incorporate necessary details in the draft report. The Agency is yet to submit its revised report. After receipt of the baseline survey report from the Agency, the Ministry will be in a position to assess the actual number of powerloom weaver/workers. Till then, it may be necessary to continue with the practise of estimating the number of powerloom weavers / workers engaged in the decentralized powerloom sector on the basis of number of looms installed / registered.

As per the available records, there are 23.55 lakh powerlooms in decentralized sector. The employment in this sector is estimated to be 58.87 lakh which includes both direct and indirect employment (1:1 for direct employment and 1:1.5 for indirect employment). This is also kept in view while preparing the budget proposal for any welfare schemes like Group Insurance Scheme, Health Insurance Scheme and other developmental scheme like Group Workshed Scheme, Exposure Visit and Buyer Seller Meets etc.

With regard to the continuation of the office of Textile Commissioner at Kanpur, it is to inform that this Ministry has already issued necessary office order for the continuation of the sub office of the Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner, Noida at Kanpur and the sub- office has started functioning in Kanpur w.e.f. 1st August, 2013.

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.6 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

(Recommendation No. 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.

Reply of the Government

In order to reduce the drudgery of handloom weavers and improve the productivity of handlooms, the Advisory Committee on Handlooms (Reservation of Article for Production) Act, in a meeting held on 10th December, 2012, under the chairpersonship of Secretary (Textiles), discussed the definition of handloom and recommended modifications in the definition of handloom. As per proposed definition of handloom, “handloom means any loom, other than powerloom; and includes any hybrid loom on which at least one process for weaving requires manual intervention or human energy for production” which under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 has been defined as “any loom other than powerloom”.

The issue of amendment of definition was, however, opposed by many handloom experts and civil society members in the National Consultation on Handloom Sector held on 1st March, 2013. Keeping in view the reservations expressed to the proposed amendment on the issue, and in particular how handlooms would then be differentiated from powerloom, the meeting of Advisory Committee was held on 12th April, 2014. The Advisory Committee then constituted a Sub-Committee to deliberate and analyse the concerning issues in greater details and submit recommendations to the Advisory Committee.

The Sub-Committee has now submitted its report on 29th October, 2013. The Sub-Committee has not recommended any amendment in the definition of handloom as mentioned in the Handlooms (Reservation of Article for Production) Act, 1985. However, to address the demand of powerloom weavers to extend facilities/concessions at par with handloom weavers, the Sub-Committee has made following recommendations:

- i) The unorganised and decentralised household powerloom weavers having maximum four powerlooms in a household and the powerloom having motor power upto one H.P. may be categorized into a separate group and the weavers of this category may be given priority under the existing powerloom schemes. The schemes under implementation for powerloom sector offer the similar facilities/concessions being extended to handloom weavers.
- ii) Powerloom Mark may be introduced to give a brand value to powerloom products so that weavers are not tempted to trade under disguise of handloom products. This will also ensure that consumers get genuine products at reasonable prices.
- iii) Since the powerloom units require larger working capital and term loan, a scheme for making concessional credit to this category of powerloom weavers may be introduced.

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee would now be considered by the Advisory Committee under Ministry of Textiles.

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.27 of Chapter I of this Report.

(Ministry of Textiles' O.M. No.2/30/2013-Parl. dated 28.11.2013)

New Delhi;
March, 2014
Magha ,1935 (Saka)

DARA SINGH CHAUHAN,
CHAIRMAN,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

APPENDIX-II

(Vide Para No. 3 of the Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-EIGHT REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

		Total Percentage	
I.	Total number of Recommendations	13	
II.	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government	04	30.77%
(Rec. Para. Nos. 30, 31, 33 and 36)			
III.	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply	NIL	NIL
IV.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee	07	53.85%
(Rec. Para. Nos. 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 41)			
V.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are of interim in nature	02	15.38%
(Rec. Para Nos. 29 and 40)			

			100%
