

lems faced by the NTC Mills in West Bengal,

- (iv) Identification of yarn requirements of the decentralised sector in West Bengal and suggestions regarding means to improve quality and quantity of yarn production by the NTC mills with a view to cater to the requirements of the decentralised sector in the State/region and
- (v) Recommendations for future course of action, regarding points (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) above as well as any other related aspects in the form of short-term remedial measures as well as long-term plans so as to ensure the economic viability of NTC subsidiary's operations in West Bengal keeping in view the market requirements

The Committee has not yet submitted its Report to the Government

Social Control Over Health Services

6435 SHRI P R KUMARAMANGALAM Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the social control over health services as a welfare measures and

(b) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) (a) and (b) Government is committed to provide Health Services to the weaker sec-

tions specially in remote and rural areas and strengthening of social control over Health Services is one of the measures to which Government attaches high priority Details are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments

Handloom Weavers

6436 SHRI HETRAM Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have conducted any study about the socio economic conditions of handloom weavers in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether Government have undertaken any study about the prices of inputs, labour, middlemen margin and consumer price of handloom products particularly in the manufacturing of durrises and Khadi, and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure fair wages to handloom weavers and to cover the contract labour employed in this industry under ESI, EPF and other statutory safeguards?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) (a) A census of handlooms at the national level covering interalia certain at on the socio-economic aspects of handloom weavers was conducted by the Government of India through the State Government during 1987-88

(b) The main findings of the census regarding handloom weavers in the country are as follows

1. *Employment*

(in lakh persons)

(a) Total population of weaver households : 156.08

(b) Total number of persons engaged in preparatory and weaving activities :

		<i>Preparatory</i>	<i>Weaving</i>	<i>Total</i>
(i) Full time	:	10.95	22.43	33.38
(ii) Part time	:	10.62	21.33	31.95
Total	:	21.57	43.76	65.33

2. *Households & Non-households*(Non-household units are those which own loomsheds where loomless weavers work)
(Number in lakhs)

(i) House-holds : 30.60

(ii) Non-households : 0.24

Total : 30.84

3. *Distribution of weaver house-holds by monthly earnings*

(Number in lakhs)

(a) from handloom weaving only

(i) up to Rs. 200/= : 16.56

(ii) Rs. 201/= to Rs. 500/= : 10.50

(iii) Rs. 501 = and above : 3.54

(b) from all sources

(i) up to Rs. 200/= : 2.04

(ii) Rs. 201/= to Rs. 500/= : 13.24

(iii) Rs. 501/= and above : 15.32

4. *Gender-wise distribution*
(in lakh persons)

(i) Men	:	17.69
(ii) Women	:	40.04
(iii) Children	:	7.60
Total	:	65.33

5. *Caste-wise distribution*
(in lakh persons)

(i) Scheduled Caste	:	7.94
(ii) Scheduled Tribe	:	13 10
(iii) Others	:	44.29
Total	:	65.33

6. *Working Status of full time weavers*
(in lakh persons)

(i) Under cooperatives	:	4.55
(ii) Under State Corpns	:	0.47
(iii) Under Master weavers	:	3.45
(iv) Independent weavers	:	12.11
(v) Others	:	1.85
Total	:	22.43

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At the instance of Government of India, the States of Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have notified minimum wages in respect of the handloom industry under the Minimum Wages Act 1948. Other States have been requested to follow suit. In order

to ensure higher earnings for the handloom weavers and to improve their socio-economic conditions, the Government have been making efforts through various measures such as:

- (i) Financial assistance for modernisation of looms.
- (ii) Scheme of decentralised train-

- ing to train weavers on improved technology;
- (iii) Scheme of training a cadre of 'Bunkar Sevaks' for assisting weavers in transfer of improved technology;
- (iv) Protection to handlooms by reserving certain varieties of cloth for their exclusive production in the handloom sector;
- (v) Design support and provision of technological inputs through a number of Weavers' service Centres in the country;
- (vi) Special fiscal concessions to the handloom sector to remove the cost handicap of handlooms vis-a-vis the powerlooms;
- (vii) Assistance to weavers to enable them to form industrial type cooperatives.
- (viii) Thrift Fund Scheme which covers Group Insurance Scheme;
- (ix) Market Development Assistance Scheme including special rebate, Share Capital Assistance to Apex Societies and State Corporations to give market support to handloom products; and
- (x) The Janata Cloth Scheme under which it is ensured that reasonable level of wages is paid to handloom weavers

Indian Workers Returned From Gulf Countries

6437. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian workers, country-wise, who returned from Gulf countries due to loss of employment during the last two years;

(b) whether a survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) This information is not maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not Arise.

Steps to Cure Cancer and Medicine Discovered

6438. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far and proposed to be taken to eradicate cancer disease;

(b) whether any effective medicine has since been discovered; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) to (c). Till date, the medical scientists have not found any effective method for eradication of cancer disease. However, a large percentage of cancer cases can be prevented through appropriate health education or can be cured through early detection. Necessary measures are being taken by the Government towards this direction.