

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
Are you sure that these measures are all right and that will change the situation ?

Problems of Handloom Industry

*127. **SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :**
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the handloom industry in the country is facing serious problem;

(b) the main problems and the steps being taken to solve them;

(c) whether it is a fact that the demand of handloom products is decreasing year after year within the country and abroad;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to know the causes; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to save this industry and the weavers from being ruined ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) No such problems have been brought to the notice of Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The production of handloom fabrics has been going up steadily over the years. The exports, however, have been fluctuating mainly due to external factors relating to policies of importing countries. The figures of production and

exports for the past few years are given in the annexure.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government of India have been implementing the following schemes for the development of the handloom sector :

(i) Loan assistance to handloom weavers for share capital contribution to primary cooperative societies;

(ii) Share capital assistance to primary cooperative societies and State handloom development corporations;

(iii) Managerial subsidy to primary handloom cooperative societies;

(iv) Modernisation assistance for handloom cooperative societies and State handloom development corporations;

(v) Assistance for setting up pre-loom and post-loom processing facilities;

(vi) Janata cloth scheme;

(vii) Special rebate scheme;

(viii) Financial assistance for setting up spinning mills in the handloom weavers cooperative sector;

(ix) Special hill area development projects;

(x) Thrift Fund Scheme; and

(xi) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.

Annexure

Year	Production (in million metre)	Value of Export (in Rs. crores)
1979-80	2900	290.41
1980-81	3100	326.63
1981-82	3113	368.87
1982-83	3253	330.89
1983-84	3359	262.32
1984-85	3514	348.86
1985-86	3680 (Prov.)	361.59 (Prov.)

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the handloom industry is not facing any problem. In reply to one part of the question, he has stated that the exports, however, have been fluctuating mainly due to external factors relating to the policies of importing countries. May I know what steps the Government are taking to remove these external factors ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, the statement that I have laid on the Table of the House, enumerates all the steps that we have taken. Besides, a number of welfare schemes have already been started, such as the construction of houses, construction of sheds, introduction of thrift schemes, and schemes for the improvement of their looms and they are receiving benefits from all these schemes.

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : My second supplementary to the hon. Minister is whether there is any scheme to set up spinning mills in backward areas to remove unemployment, because it is the question of the livelihood of the people living in the hilly, backward and tribal areas ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The capacity that should have been achieved by the end of the last year of the Seventh

Plan has already been achieved by the spinning mills. Therefore, it seems difficult for the present to set up new spinning mills.

SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : The hon. Minister has stated that the handloom industry is not faced with any problem. During the last 20 years, out of 80,000 handloom units in Gujarat, only 20,000 are left now. The reason is that they do not get even Rs. 15 after a day's hard labour. That is why the people are gradually leaving this industry. I would like to know whether Government's attention has been drawn to this problem and if so, what steps are contemplated in this regard ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, we are seized of this matter. It is an established fact that not more than five metres of cloth can be woven on handloom in a day and it is because of this that we have decided to reserve controlled variety of cloth and Janata cloth for the handloom sector. 500 million metres of cloth will be manufactured by the handloom sector this year. By the end of the 'Seventh Plan, 700 million metres of cloth will be manufactured by the handlooms sector.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question asked by my colleague, the hon. Minister has stated that the handloom sector is not facing any

major problem. If there is no problem, why is the production not increasing? He has stated that with a view to encouraging them, schemes have been introduced to advance them loans, etc. The demand for handloom cloth in foreign countries is falling. May I know the reasons for this fall in demand? Is it due to poor quality? Secondly, how much funds the Government are going to earmark this year to encourage their other works and to give them loans, and how much is Andhra's share in that?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me make it clear that no funds are earmarked State-wise. The funds are allocated for the entire work. The hon. Member's submission that the quality of cloth is deteriorating is not correct, because it may be seen that out of 3600 millions metres of cloth manufactured in 1985-86, 342 million metres of cloth was manufactured by the handloom sector and cloth worth Rs. 361.59 crores was exported. It proves that there is neither a shortfall in exports nor in production.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : He has not stated as to how much funds they allot to each State?

MR. SPEAKER : He has replied that the funds are not allocated State-wise; haven't you heard that?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Are you satisfied, Mr. Speaker, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do about it?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : How much do they allot to the States...

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : In each State, we have schemes on 50-50 basis. In case, any scheme is received from Andhra Pradesh on 50-50 basis, they are sure to get funds.

[English]

Ban on Recruitment for Existing Vacancies and Creation of New Posts

*128 **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR† :**
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations have been received from the labour Unions and MPs for complete withdrawal of the ban imposed on filling of existing vacancies and the creation of new posts in services under the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). Following requests and representations from Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Ministries/Departments and staff associations etc., the Government have recently modified the guidelines regarding creation of posts/filling up of vacancies.

According to the revised guidelines, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, vacancies both Plan and non-Plan, arising due to promotion, retirement, death, resignation, dismissal, removal or deputation etc. can now be filled up. Likewise, the procedure for filling up of and creation of Plan posts has been liberalised.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : This is a very important question. Sir, the rural areas are the hardest hit. As you are having a soft attitude towards rural areas, I would like to ask two points raised in this answer. One is regarding the recent modification which is also subjected to fulfilment of certain conditions and also the filling up of and creation of plan posts have been liberalised. I would like to know as to what is the liberalisation? What are the conditions that have been imposed?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : In the recent liberalisation, so far as Plan posts and Non-Plan posts are concerned, several guidelines have been issued. One is that vacancies both for Plan and Non-Plan arising due to promotion, retirement, death, resignation, dismissal, removal or deputation etc. may be filled up. The second is that while creating any new assets such as purchase of vehicles, establishment of new organisations etc., staff