

RCEP AGREEMENT

4237. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has considered signing the RCEP agreement with Thailand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has considered pros and cons of this agreement;
- (d) if so, whether it is a fact that handloom and powerloom sectors in the country are likely to be affected adversely as cheap powerloom and handloom goods are likely to be flooded in India after this agreement; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to consider the interests of domestic handloom and powerloom industry?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन इरानी)  
MINISTER OF TEXTILES  
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

**(a) to (d):** During the 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Summit which was held on 4 November, 2019 in Bangkok, India stated that the current structure of RCEP did not reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in the light of which India did not join RCEP. The Government held regular stakeholders' consultations and received inputs from the domestic industry, exporters, trade experts and concerned Ministries/Departments. These inputs were taken into consideration while formulating India's position in the RCEP negotiations, with a view to achieving balanced outcomes, balancing ambitions with addressing domestic sensitivities including that of the handloom and powerloom sectors.

**(e):** In order to promote domestic handloom and powerloom industry across the country the Government of India is implementing the following schemes:

- **Powerloom Sector:** PowerTex India- A comprehensive scheme for development of Powerloom sector has been launched w.e.f 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with components like Insitu-upgradation of plain Powerlooms, Group Work Shed Scheme, Yarn Bank Scheme, Common Facility Centre (CFC), Solar Energy Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme, etc.
- **Handloom Sector:** For the handloom sector, which is unorganised, development support is provided under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS), Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) and Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS) for basic inputs, looms and accessories, design development, infrastructure development, marketing of handloom products etc.

At present, 11 items of handloom products are covered under Reservation of Articles for Production Act, 1985 which is predominantly produced by the handloom sector in India.

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