

[24 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

- (ii) Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001 recognized that the real problem lies in the distribution sector and therefore resolved, *inter alia*, that:
  - (a) Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders will be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.
  - (b) An effective Management Information System (MIS) for this purpose be made operational.
  - (c) On the basis of the above, an effective programme be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in the next 2 years.
  - (d) Full metering of all consumers.
  - (e) Current operations in distribution would need to reach breakeven in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.
- (iii) Memoranda of understanding (MoU) have been signed with 21 States. The MoUs are a joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner with focus on distribution reforms.
- (iv) Government has launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) to assist the States in improving their sub-transmission/distribution system and providing incentive grants linked to the bridging of the gap between cost of supply and average revenue per unit. Under the APDRP, projects in identified distribution circles aimed at turnaround and development as centres of excellence are eligible for financing. A comprehensive six level intervention strategy for bringing about a turnaround in distribution has been evolved.
- (v) The Electricity Bill, 2001 envisages a series of measures for curbing and effectively dealing with theft of electricity.

#### **Schemes for the development of weavers**

†\*156. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes being implemented by Government for the development of weavers;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the benefits of above schemes are reaching the weavers;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the benefits of schemes announced by Government reach directly to weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The Government of India has been providing assistance through the following schemes for the overall development of the handloom sector and welfare of weavers in the country:—

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
- (ii) Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme.
- (iii) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (iv) Publicity and Exhibition Scheme.
- (v) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
- (vi) Health Package Scheme.
- (vii) Thrift Fund Scheme.
- (viii) Group Insurance Scheme.
- (ix) New Insurance Scheme.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure that the benefit of the assistance imparted through the above schemes actually reaches the beneficiaries, a State-level Monitoring Committee headed by the Secretary in-charge of handlooms of the concerned State has been constituted in each State which is required to supervise the implementation of the projects sanctioned and also monitor the progress made under the schemes. Central assistance under the schemes is released only on the basis of the recommendations made by the said Committee.

(d) The Handloom Industry being dispersed and decentralised in nature, it will be very difficult for Government of India to impart assistance under the schemes directly to the weavers.