

Adverse impact of New Textile Policy on Handloom and Small Sector

*143. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:†
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Textile Policy announced by Government will adversely affect the handloom and small sector in the Textiles industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has categorically stated that the New Textile Policy will not affect adversely the handloom and the small-scale sectors. The reply reflects how far the Government is isolated from the common people. I think, not even the ruling party MPs will agree with him. I would like to point out that not only the handloom and the small scale sectors are affected; even the cotton growers will be affected because of this policy. Sir, if you go through the comments made by the Press on the New Textile Policy, what do you see? For example, the Economic times says: "the New textile Policy disappoints these industries." Besides this, many other comments are being made throughout India by the Press and also by mass organisations. But the hon. Minister is straightaway saying that there is no adverse affect at all. I want to know whether the hon. Minister would depute a group of MPs to find out how far this policy adversely affects the handloom and the small-scale sectors and the small-scale exporting units of the country and how the New Textile Policy tends to ruin them. That group should suggest remedies as to how the small scale sector, the handloom sector and the cotton growers can be saved.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, a large number of associations of textile industries and the financial institutions have welcomed the announcement of the New Textile Policy, 2000, by the Government. But Sir, my learned friend has raised the point of cotton growers. I say that this policy also covers the interests of the cotton growers. Not only this; the Government has also launched a technology Mission on cotton. The implementation of this Mission is going on well, Sir. So far as the New Textile Policy is concerned, I again

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V.V. Raghavan.

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say that it will not adversely affect the small scale sector and handloom units. I am saying so because, according to the New textile Policy, 2000, the hank yarn obligation and the Handloom Reservation Act will remain intact. There is no proposal to repeal or scrap it. Sir, as suggested by my learned friend, at this juncture, the Government is not thinking in terms of forming a group of MPs to address the issues related to the National Textile Policy. I do not feel that it will be good for the mills, if the issues that are related to textile, handloom or small-scale sectors are discussed by a group of MPs.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, my second supplementary is, what will be the fate of the units of the National Textile Corporation throughout India? Sir, in Kerala, the N.T.C. units are working well, and they are well managed. For Heaven's sake, don't kill them by clubbing them with other loosing units. We have very few textile PSUs in Kerala. The Central investment is very nominal. So, Sir, I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister so that our units in Kerala are not sold.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the Government of India has taken a decision recently to check the viability of all mills, either fully working or partially working or closed down. Despite the fact that the BIFR has already issued winding up orders in respect of some mills, the Government has again taken a decision to check the viability of these mills. So, there is a scope for revival or revamping of not only the partially working or the fully working mills of NTC, but, if found viable, the closed mills situated in Kerala or in any other part of the country can also be revived.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, I am told, the Government of India has got a report about each textile mill, whether it is viable or not viable. I would like to know, according to the report, how many textile mills are viable. There was a demand by the textile mill workers as well as by the owners that the surplus land available with them should be permitted to be sold, and whatever money they get, they will reinvest it for starting a new textile mill. I would like to know whether the Government of India has agreed to it or not.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, Out of the hundred mills of the National Textile Corporation, nearly twenty mills are fully working 45-50 mills are partially working, and the rest of the mills are closed down. Sir, the Government of India has taken a decision for reviving and revamping of the partially working or the closed mills of the NTC. As per the policy of the Government of India, in order to sell the excess or the surplus land of these closed mills, we have approached the various State Governments to support

and cooperate with us. So far as the revival and revamping of the NTC mills is concerned, I want to say that the Government of Maharashtra has taken a positive stand. No clear stand has been taken, but a positive stand has been taken. I think, on that line, most of the mills can be revived.

SHRI JIBON ROY: How long can you play the same record?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Listen, Listen Bear with me.

SHRI JIBON ROY: We passed this law ten years ago. Don't take the House for a ride.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I have already said that without the State Government's co-operation and help in selling the land, how can the Government of India revive them? I have mentioned that the Government of Maharashtra has taken a positive stand.

SHRI JIBON ROY: It was decided that all the mills would be revived, but you are not doing that(Interruptions)...

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: सर, मंत्री जी क्या कहना चाह रहे हैं?... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: On that line, the Government of India is going to revive or revamp the NTC's closed mills.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Forgive me. Sir, when I look at the Textile Policy, I find that it seems to be very, very vague. Some beautiful English words like technological upgradation, modernisation, export promotion, exclusiveness of the global market etc. have been used, but it remains so very vague that it is very difficult to visualise the concrete steps. I will confine myself only to the subject of the question proper, the handloom industry.

Part (a) of my supplementary is: what concrete steps do you have for "market linkages" and "handloom activities to be suitably dovetailed with the activities of the centres of design?" What concrete steps have been envisaged?

Part (b) of my supplementary is: We have seen that technological upgradation and development almost invariably affect women adversely because in this poor country with limited resources, whenever opportunities are afforded to us, they are given to the boy child rather than the girl child. I give one small example. I went to Howrah. A girl was taking out threads out of a jute bag. There was a lot of dust. There was a machine in front of her. I

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asked her, "Why don't you make the rope on the machine"? The answer was, "My brother is my brother. He will beat me if I touch the machine."

This being the reality my question under the circumstances is: what concrete steps have you thought of--in answer to Dr. Manmohan Singh's question you said this, and I am quoting it--"to sustain and strengthen the traditional knowledge and upgrade skills and capabilities of women in the sector"?

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the hon. Member has said that there are only beautiful words. The National Textile Policy, 2000....(*Interruptions*)... Listen to me. This Policy was formulated to generate more and more employment in the textile sector. (*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती सरला माहेस्वरी: सर, इस पर शार्ट ड्यूरेशन डिसकसन करवा दीजिए।
...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I am coming to your point. Sir, the second thing is that.....

SHRI JIBON ROY: The industry says that 60 per cent of the handlooms will be eliminated.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I am coming to your point.

The second thing of the Policy is to earn more and more foreign exchange for the development of the country.

SHRI JIBON ROY: There is a problem of selling India.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The third one is to make our textile sector competitive in the world market beyond the post-MFN regime. There will be a free market in January, 2005. It is the duty of this Government to make this sector very competitive.

So far as the handloom sector is concerned, I am giving some concrete steps taken by the Government of India.

Sir, so far as handloom is concerned, the Government has... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JIBON ROY: By your decision, the powerloom industry is being destroyed, the textile mills are being destroyed. Everything is being destroyed. ...(*Interruptions*).

श्री खान गुफ्तार जाहिदी: एक तरफ मिलें बंद हो रही हैं...(व्यवधान)...इस पर शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन डिस्कशन होना चाहिए...(व्यवधान)...यह कैसा लिक्विडेशन है...(व्यवधान)... 120 मिलों में से

20 चल रही है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री काशी राम राणा: यह तो आप लोगों का किया हुआ है...(व्यवधान)... आपने जो किया है हम तो उससे ज्यादा ही चला रहे हैं....(व्यवधान)...

श्री जीवन राय: आप हर डिसिजन पर उनको दोषी उहराते हो...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: कितनी मिलें चल रही हैं क्या आपको मालूम है...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The third thing is, the Government has just now *(Interruptions)*...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: खड़े होकर जवाब दीजिए...(व्यवधान)... They cannot answer. Why don't you reply? Why do you answer? Let them answer.

श्री जीवन राय: मिनिमम प्रेस्टीज रहना चाहिए...(व्यवधान)...आप उन्हें जवाब देने दीजिए...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as handloom is concerned, the Government has already launched the Deendayal Hatkargha Protsahan Scheme.*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. *(Interruptions)*.... Please sit down. Everybody will get his turn, but not now. First, let the Minister reply.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, let me complete my reply. My request...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jibon Roy, by your intervention it won't be saved. First hear him. Then, put your question. He will reply to it*(Interruptions)*...Don't go on interrupting*Interruptions*.... It won't be saved.*Interruptions*.... One by one you can put the question. You can put your point of view....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the difficulty is, every time the Government of the day passes the buck to the previous Government. It is better if they hand over the power to the party who were governing in the past. Let them answer those questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even then, they are not satisfied.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: This is the situation. You have to protect our rights also.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let the Minister reply...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Minister reply.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as the growth of handloom activity and welfare of our handloom weavers are concerned, the Government has implemented the Deendayal Hatkargha Protsahan Scheme from the field to market. The Government has provided some facilities or benefits for marketing. The quality of the handloom cloth also has been improved. A point was raised about the design. I would like to inform the hon. Member that a design centre for the design of handloom fabric has already been set up in Delhi.

चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव: सभापति महोदय, कानपुर नगर सारे देश में कपड़ा उद्योग, ऊन उद्योग और चमड़ा उद्योग में बहुत आगे था लेकिन आज कपड़े की कई मिलें बंद हो चुकी हैं, मैं कृत्रिम मंत्री से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये मिलें कब तक खुलेंगी क्योंकि आज हजारों मजदूर बेरोजगार हैं। क्या मंत्री जी ने इस संबंध में कोई नीति बनाई है?

श्री काशी राम राणा: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सांसद ने कानपुर मिलों का जिक्र किया, इस संबंध में मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि कानपुर की वूलन मिल के लिक्विडेशन का केस हाई कोर्ट में था, लेकिन सरकार ने कर्मचारियों को उनका वेतन न सिर्फ समय पर देने बल्कि इन मिलों को चालू करके उन्हें पूरे समय तक रोजगार देने के लिए लाल इमली और धारीवाल मिलों के रिवाइवल प्लान के लिए सवा दो सौ करोड़ की मंजूरी दी है। मुझे विश्वास है कि कानपुर की मिल अच्छी तरह से रिवाइव होकर चलेगी और वर्कर्स को एम्प्लुएमेंट भी मिलेगी।

चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव: माननीय सभापति जी,...

श्री सभापति: आपका सवाल हो गया।...*(व्यवधान)*... आपने एक सवाल कर दिया श्रीमती सविता शारदा।

चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव: वहां पर आधे से ज्यादा मजदूर तो मर चुके हैं।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि टेक्नालाजी अपग्रेडेशन निधि के तहत सूरत की कितनी यूनिट्स ने लाभ लिया है? अगर लाभ नहीं लिया है तो इसके क्या कारण हैं? गुजरात में नयी वस्त्र नीति का क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है? और मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि 23 तारीख को एक समाचार प्रकाशित हुआ है कि सिर्फ जयपुर में ही 43 मिलें बंद हुई हैं और लगभग पूरे भारत में काफी वस्त्र मिलें बंद हो रही हैं। इसके कारण हमारे काफी कामगार बेकार हो रहे हैं। लोगों का मानना है कि अगले पांच वर्षों में चीन और

कोरिया के साथ वस्त्र निर्यात में स्पर्धा रहेगी। महोदय, अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में चीन का भाग सिर्फ 17 प्रतिशत है जिसे वह 2005 तक 40 प्रतिशत करना चाहता है। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि इस प्रतिस्पर्धा में उतरने के लिए सरकार की क्या कोई ठोस व स्पष्ट वस्त्र नीति, पूंजी निवेश और आधुनिक तकनीक की खास योजना है?

श्री काशी राम राणा: सभापति जी, टेक्नालाजी अपग्रेडेशन स्कीम के बारे में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि कपड़ा उद्योग की ऐसी स्थिति में भी हमें 11 हजार करोड़ रुपये के इन्वेस्टमेंट की एप्लीकेशंस मिली हैं। जो स्टेप सरकार ने टेक्नालाजी अपग्रेडेशन स्कीम, काटन टेक्नालाजी मिशन और टैक्सटायल पालिसी में लिए हैं इससे एक नया जोश, एक नई जान टैक्सटायल उद्योग में आयी है। इसमें हमें 11 हजार करोड़ का इन्वेस्टमेंट मिला है और इनमें से 50 परसेंट अप्लीकेशंस हमने आलरेडी सेंक्शन की हैं, फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशंस ने सेंक्शन की हैं और डिस्बर्समेंट चालू है।

सर, जहां तक स्टेट्स का सवाल है, टेक्नालाजी अपग्रेडेशन फंड का जिन्होंने ज्यादा से ज्यादा लाभ लिया है वह तमिलनाडु ने लिया है, गुजरात ने लिया है और महाराष्ट्र ले रहा है। जहां पर भी इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, वह अगर अपनी आल मशीनरी को रिप्लेसमेंट करना चाहते हैं और अपनी नई यूनिट लगाना चाहते हैं- मैं तो कहूंगा कि जो मिलें बंद हुई हैं उनके सामने नई और मिलें आज शुरू हो रही हैं। इसलिए हमारा जो कपड़े का उत्पादन है वह भी आज 9 परसेंट बढ़ा है और हमारा जो एक्सपोर्ट है वह एक्सपोर्ट भी 11 परसेंट बढ़ा है। जो माननीय सदस्या ने चीन और कोरिया की बात कही है तो जो हमारा कंपीटीशन है वह चीन के साथ है। 60 हजार करोड़ रुपये का एक्सपोर्ट रेवेन्यू होते हुए भी हमारा जो वर्ल्ड शेयर है वह 43 परसेंट है और चाइना का शेयर, जो माननीय सांसदा ने कहा वह बिल्कुल सही है। लेकिन इस पालिसी के तहत अभी एक्सपोर्ट अनिंग्स 13.42 हमें मिली है। हम अपना एक्सपोर्ट अप टु 2010 तक 50 मिलियन करना चाहते हैं और यह टारगेट लेकर हम चल रहे हैं।

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI: Sir, this is a country which has been growing cotton, this is a country which has been traditionally, like China, one of the largest producers of cotton textiles. We have implemented various projects to put synthetic fibre industry on such a large scale. Our textile labour are known for their skills. In spite of all these facts being available, somehow, our textile policy has been languishing. On the one hand, we have closed down all textile mills; our textile sector has been declared as a sick sector by all financial institutions and banks and nobody wants to touch any proposal for investment in the textile sector; on the other, the textile labour have been rendered surplus, they have no alternative places of employment. And the cotton growers' plight is that they are not getting remunerative prices and they are committing suicide

for want of their ability to repay their debts. What type of policy have you followed? We have another example of China. China was also facing a similar problem. But now, China has come out of it. Today, China is exporting their fabrics to the world markets at the price at which even Japan, Korea and Taiwan are not able to export, and they are unable to compete with it. I think, some serious soul-searching exercise is required to be done. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten us as to how he is going to revive the textiles industry, as to how he is going to revive the traditional handloom industry and as to how he is going to re-establish and rehabilitate the textiles workers, which is the need of the hour.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, so far as the question of revival or revamping of the textiles sector is concerned, the Government has formulated the National Textiles Policy, 2000. The hon. Member has also raised the issue of the cotton growers that they are not getting remunerative price for cotton. Sir, I have got the figures with me, the price of cotton which the cotton growers got last year. Right now, they are getting Rs. 300/- or Rs. 400/- more per quintal than that price of last year because of the implementation of the Technology Cotton Mission.

SOME HON. MEMEBRS: Sir, we want a Half-an-hour discussion on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. There will be a Half-an-hour discussion on this issue. Now, Question No. 144.

Households Engaged in Handloom Activities in Andhra Pradesh

***144. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any census to find out the number of house holds in Andhra Pradesh who are engaged in handloom activities;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) what steps Government have taken for the welfare of these households at least to ensure that their male members are not forced to commit suicides; and

(d) what contribution is being made by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.