

[22 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether it is a fact that cloth is being produced by mill, powerloom and handloom sectors in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more people are employed in the handloom sector, than in the powerloom and mill sectors;

(c) if not, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(d) the estimated average number of people directly employed in each of the above sectors during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Cloth production in the country is mainly from the mill, handloom, powerloom and hosiery sectors of the textile industry.

(b) & (c) As per the Joint Census of Handlooms and Powerlooms conducted by National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 1995-96, 6.5 million persons (Provisional) are engaged in handloom sector whereas in the powerloom sector, approximately 40,49,222 number of persons are engaged as on 30.9.99. In the Cotton man-made fibre textile mill sector 1039 thousand workers are on the roll, as on 30.9.99.

(d) Because of the decentralised nature of handloom sector, the year-wise data of number of persons engaged in the handloom sector is not maintained. However, the details of workers on roll in cotton man-made fibre textile mills and direct employment in powerloom sector during the last three years are given below:—

Sl. Sector No.	1996-97*	1997-98*	1998-99*	1999-2000**
1. Mill	1027	1010	1037	1039
2. Powerloom***	2124	2301	2399	2430

* As on 31st March

** As on 30.9.99

*** Direct employment in powerloom sector is worked out based on the number of looms multiplied by 1.5.

Cloth Varieties Reserved for Production Sectors

†2275. **SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain varieties of cloth and the items manufactured from it are reserved for manufacture in different textile production sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the nature thereof along with the sectors for which they are reserved;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that the manufacturing of these reserved items has also been permitted in the other sector on certain basis; and

(d) if so, the names of the items along with the sectors for their manufacture, and what conditions have been put to approve their manufacture in other sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 eleven categories of textile articles have been reserved for exclusive production on handloom vide Notification No. SO. 557(E) dated 26.7.96 and amendment Notification No. SO. 408(E) dated 2.6.99.

(b) Eleven categories of textile articles have been reserved for exclusive production on handloom with certain specific technical parameters namely: 1. Saree, 2. Dhoti, 3. Towel, Gamcha & Angavastram, 4. Lungi, 5. Khes, Bedsheet, Bedcover, Counterpane, Furnishing, (including tapestry, upholstery), 6. Jamakkalam Durry or Durret, 7. Dress Material, 8. Barrack Blankets, Kambal or Kamblies, 9. Shawl, Loi Muffler, Pankhi etc. 10. Woolien Tweed, 11. Chaddar, Mekhala/Phanek.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Tax incentives in Textile Industry

2276. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

SHRI RAMACHANDRIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken to provide the tax incentives for capital goods as well as raw materials in textile industry for development of infrastructure, to facilitate more exports of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Over the last few years, the Government has been taking several policy initiatives both Export-Import policy and fiscal policy in relation to the capital goods of raw materials, generally and with specific reference to textiles. They are as follows:

(i) Rationalisation of duty structure (both excise and customs) on the inputs.

(ii) Rationalisation of duty drawback scheme.

(iii) Reduction in the threshold limit for import of capital goods under the Export Promotion Capital Good (EPCG) Scheme, from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore.

(iv) Import of specified (159) textile machinery under concessional import duty.