

organizes the National Handloom Expos, District Level Events, Craft Melas, etc. in different parts of the country. For this purpose, the financial support is provided to the implementing agency towards infrastructure, publicity, etc. These activities are supportive to the handloom agencies, weavers and also to the consumer as it provides them an opportunity to purchase the handloom products of various states under one roof.

Powerloom Sector:

- (a) **Powerloom Service Centre (PSC):** Under this scheme Powerloom Service Centres have been established at important locations. These Centres are responsible not only for imparting training to powerloom weavers but also for creating new designs and providing testing facilities. Till date 43 PSCs have been set up.
- (b) **Powerloom Workers' Insurance Scheme:** The Government of India introduced a Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom workers in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India during the year 1992-93. All Powerloom workers of age between 18 and 60 years and those who work during the year are eligible for insurance under this Scheme. A weaver, who had earned at least minimum average pay of Rs. 700 per month during a year, can join the Scheme. The Scheme envisages an annual premium to be shared equally by the Central Government, the State Government and the Powerloom worker.
- (c) **Computer Aided Design Centres:** For providing facilities for design development and product diversification for the powerloom sector, Computer Aided Design Centres are being set up at important powerloom centres.

Research & Development

The Government has taken up a programme for providing facilities to meet the testing needs of the country. Under this programme existing laboratories are being upgraded and wherever required new laboratories are being established. The prime objective is to provide testing facilities at easy distance to the textile industry.

Entrepreneurship Assistance for rural women under UNDP

*347. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed that Hyderabad would be covered under the Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development Programme, taken up for rural women under UNDP; and

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the action taken to clear the projects sent by the State Government relating to Gayatri Sankshema Vedika, Secunderabad and Dheenajana Abhyudaya Seva Samithi, Medak?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA):

(a) Association of UNDP with the Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) Programme has not yet been finalised.

(b) The Projects submitted by Gayatri Sankshema Vedika, Secunderabad and Dheenajana Abhyudaya Seva Mandal, Hyderabad have been sanctioned under the TREAD Programme.

De-nationalisation of Coal Sector

***348. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:**

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal to de-nationalise the coal sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

Requirement of Potable Water in Maharashtra and Gujarat

***349. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the current requirement of potable water in rural areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the requirement is being met in rural areas of these State; and

(d) the measures Government propose to initiate to meet the full requirement of potable water of the two States within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):

(a) to (d) Rural Water Supply is a State subject and drinking water facilities to rural habitations are provided by the State Governments under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government endeavours to supplement the efforts of the State by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated