

(e) Sometimes the Government does receive complaints regarding improper selection and these are normally resolved in consultation with Government observers before clearing the teams.

(f) Preparations for winning more medals in all major international events, including the ensuing Olympics, is an on-going process and is based on the Long Term Development Plans (LTDP) prepared by the NSFs. The Government has recently sanctioned Rupees 678 crores under the Scheme of preparation of Indian teams for Commonwealth Games 2010. Further, to address the specific coaching/training requirements of identified medal prospects, individual sportspersons are also being assisted directly by the Ministry for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training' and through the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

Apart from this, the Government provides assistance to the NSFs for various activities such as holding national/international sports events in India, the participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, the engagement of national and international coaches and the procurement of equipment and consumables.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR
WEDNESDAY THE 10TH DECEMBER, 2008#**

Problems faced by handloom weavers

*121. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey recently to find out the problems being faced by the weavers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has made any effort to improve their lot by improving handloom clusters, ensuring adequate supplies of yarn to weavers and extending health insurance cover for them; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, the 10th December, 2008 was adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of former Prime Minister of India, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Answers to questions put down in the list for that day were laid on the table of the House on Thursday, the 11th December, 2008.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has been liberally funding the State Government for implementing various schemes for handloom weavers to address the felt needs of the handloom weavers to enhance their production, productivity and enhance the income and social economic status of the weavers by providing skill up-gradation, infrastructure and input supply support to them. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been implementing 5 Schemes viz. (1) Integrated Handlooms Development Schemes, (2) handlooms Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme which consisted of Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna, (3) Mill Gate Price Scheme, (4) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, (5) diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

The Government of India is implementing Integrated Handloom Development scheme since 2007-08 for Integrated and holistic development of the handloom clusters. As per the Scheme, the cluster should have 300-500 looms and is to be developed in a time frame of three years at an upper cost of Rs. 60.00 lakh per cluster. One of the components of the Scheme is "Corpus Fund for Setting-up of yarn Depot", for which financial assistance of Rs. 3.00 lakh provided to ensure supply of yarn to the handloom weavers through the yarn depot at the cluster. Under the Scheme, so far 367 clusters have been sanctioned.

The Government of India is also implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme since 1992-93 with the objective of providing all types of yarn to the eligible Handloom Weavers at mill gate price. The Scheme is being implemented through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). The expenditure involved for transporting the yarn from the Mill Gate to the Godown of the handloom agencies is reimbursed to the handloom agencies. At present, yarn is being supplied under Mill Gate Price Scheme throughout the country through 485 Yarn Depots. During the year 2007-08, 687.46 lakh kgs. of yarn has been supplied.

The Government of India is implementing Health Insurance Scheme from 2005-06. The scheme covers not only the weaver but his wife and two children also. The ancillary handloom workers like those engaged in warping, winding, dyeing., printing, finishing, sizing, Jhala making, Jacquard cutting etc. are also eligible to be covered under the scheme. The scheme covers all pre-existing diseases as well as new diseases and a substantial provision has been kept for OPD. The annual limit per family is Rs. 15,000/- out of which OPD cover will be Rs. 7500/-. During the year 2007-08, 17.74 lakh weavers have been enrolled under the Health Insurance Scheme.

Status of implementation of Assam Accord

* 122. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had fulfilled all its obligations as committed through the Assam Accord, 1985;