

suggested. These regions could include Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Industrial Clusters, IT Parks and Export Oriented Units (EOUs). The proposal, being still at a conceptual stage, its details have not been worked out.

Meeting of Police Chiefs of North-East States

*315. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of decisions taken in the meeting of the police chiefs of the Seven North-East States as well as West Bengal and Bhutan, besides senior officers of the Army, paramilitary forces, the intelligence agencies and the Union Home Ministry, held in Guwahati;

(b) whether emphasis has been given on coordination of various security forces, anti-insurgency plans and operations more urgently; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) In the Annual Conference of Directors General of Police of North Eastern States including Sikkim and West Bengal, held at Guwahati on November 1-2, 2006, the issues discussed included, *inter alia*, operational coordination, intelligence sharing, counter insurgency strategy and strengthening and technical training of police and intelligence officers.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Integrated scheme for development of powerloom sector

*316. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the powerloom sector has not received due attention of Government it deserves, even though this sector contributes 68 per cent of the total cloth production of the country and provides employment to about 48.15 lakh persons;

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the powerloom sector;

(c) whether the Standing Committee on labour has recommended formulation of an integrated scheme for development of the powerloom sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to formulate the scheme and to provide necessary financial help to the sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) The Powerloom Sector has always received special attention of the Government, which has taken a number of steps for its growth. Some of the initiatives are as under:

1. In order to facilitate the modernization of Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centers, Support to Computer Aided Design Centres and 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme have been introduced. The Government has also enhanced the capital ceiling for machinery from Rs. 60.00 lakh to Rs. 100.00 lakh w.e.f. 13.01.2005 under 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy scheme-TUFS.
2. For welfare of the powerloom workers, Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Weavers has been introduced in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India since July, 2003. Government has also announced a Scheme for assistance for construction of group workshops for powerlooms to create a better working environment and obtain high productivity.
3. Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) (44 in number) have been established in major powerloom concentration areas in different States to provide a variety of services to the powerloom sector including training, testing facilities, technical consultation, design development and diversification etc.
4. To facilitate creation of new designs, improvement of the designs and production of fabric in the fast changing global scenario, Computer Aided Design (CAD) Centres have been set up at 17 major powerloom clusters.
5. All-India Powerloom Board (AIPB) has been constituted as an Advisory Body with representatives of the Central and State Governments, Powerloom Federations/Associations of Powerloom industry as its members.

6. Powerloom Development Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) has been set up for assistance in export promotion and development activities relating to decentralised powerloom sector.

The Government is taking all the necessary steps for overall development of powerloom sector as explained above and is providing adequate financial support under various schemes. Several relaxations pertaining to technical and financial norms have been made in the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to suit the needs of the decentralised powerloom sector. The response to this scheme has been overwhelming. In addition a Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks has been launched in 2005 to provide the textile sector with world-class infrastructure by merging two schemes *viz.* Apparel Parks for Exports (APE) and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS). The Scheme is open for setting up powerloom units as well.

Proposals to tackle terrorism

*317. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering various proposals including amending the Police Act and introduction of new War on Terrorism to tackle terrorism in the country;

(b) if so, whether these proposals were considered by the Secretaries of Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs, officials of the Planning Commission, Cabinet Secretariat, Legal Affairs Department and the Intelligence Bureau; and

(c) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government remains fully committed to combating the menace of terrorism and has been pursuing a multi-pronged approach and strategy to counter the threat of terrorism.

Whenever it is considered necessary, appropriate action is taken to streamline the legal framework to deal with terrorism. The Unlawful Activities