

- (b) the details of the schemes which were started during UPA-I and UPA-II regime;
- (c) whether Government has evaluated the success of each of these schemes in the States;
- (d) whether these schemes have succeeded in redressing the plights of poor weavers;
- (e) if not, the shortcomings noticed in each scheme; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government of India, for the Eleventh Plan, has been implementing Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for the overall development of the handloom sector and welfare of the handloom weavers.

(b) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, 11 schemes were in implementation. In the year 2007 the Government of India has introduced 5 Schemes by modifying the components and amalgamation for implementation during the Eleventh Plan period.

(c) Most of the schemes are implemented through State Governments. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these schemes in the States is done through the State Level Project Committee (SLPC) which consists of experts from the handloom sector. The Committee is responsible for scrutinising the project proposals, monitoring evaluation etc. and recommend the implementing agency. In addition, the Government of India at its level ensures that the activities taken up under the above schemes are in consonance with the stated objectives of the scheme and are implemented for the overall interest of the growth and development of the handloom sector by obtaining periodic reports from the State Governments.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir, Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme has benefited the weavers in increasing their wages and providing sustained employment. With the introduction of Handloom Mark, sale of genuine handloom products has increased. For the first time, Insurance Schemes introduced in the handloom sector which has helped in coverage of lives of weavers and also providing health care to weavers and their families as well. Supply of different type of yarn has increased manifold under the Mill Gate Price Scheme. Based on the recommendation of the evaluation of the Schemes implemented during Tenth Plan, the schemes in the Eleventh Plan have been suitably modified.

Quantitative restrictions on jute imports from Bangladesh

735. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Jute Mills Association has represented for intervention of his Ministry on the issue of duty free import of jute from Bangladesh;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Association demanded for imposing quantitative restrictions; and
- (d) if so, what action Government has taken on imposing quantitative restrictions on jute imports from Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No such representation has been received in the recent past, however, the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) had submitted a pre budget representation during January, 2008 seeking intervention of the Ministry of Textiles on issue of duty free import of raw jute from Bangladesh and requesting for re-imposition of duty. Regarding imposition of quantitative restrictions no such representation has been received from IJMA. Presently, there is no proposal with the Government for imposing quantitative restrictions or duty on import of raw jute from Bangladesh.

Scheme for economic development of weavers

†736. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes being run by Government for economical development and social welfare of weavers;
- (b) whether Government is considering for any strategic initiative for providing market for goods prepared by weavers, so that their income may rise;
- (c) the details of schemes prepared by Government for economical development of weavers under cluster approach and facilities they are being provided from this; and
- (d) the impact of this scheme in Bihar and whether Government has conducted any such study by which the impact of all these plans could be found by?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government of India, for the Eleventh Plan, has been implementing Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for the overall development of the handloom sector and welfare of the handloom weavers.

(b) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme is implemented with the components of Organisation of Exhibitions, Fairs and Craft Melas, Setting up of Marketing Complexes and Urban Haats, Publicity and Awareness and Brand Development to promote the marketing of handlooms in the country and to improve the levels of awareness amongst handloom weavers and the general public. Given the current importance of brand building as a necessary ingredient of any long term strategy for augmentation of sales in domestic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.