4. **Status Holders Incentive Scrip**: Status holders belonging to the textile sector, including the Silk garment sector, are eligible for additional Duty Credit Scrip @ 1% of the FOB value of past exports. However, those exporters who are availing Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) benefits (under the Ministry of Textiles) during a particular year are not eligible for this benefit for exports of that year. The duty credit scrips can be used for procurement of capital goods with Actual User condition. This facility shall be available upto 31.3.2011.

5. **Zero Duty EPCG Scheme**: Apparels (which would include silk garments) has been included under Zero Duty EPCG Scheme, which allows import of Capital Goods for pre-production/production and post production at zero customs duty, subject to stipulated export obligation. However, Units which are availing benefit of TUF Scheme of Ministry of Textiles are not eligible for zero duty import under the Scheme.

Stringent norms for sub-contractors by NHAI

*473.SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has stringent qualification norms for sub-contractors;

(b) if so, the details of norms worked out so far; and

(c) how the transparency is to be maintained in such contracts?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Government has not changed any norms for sub-contracting as far as works executed on item-rate contracts are concerned. In such cases, sub-contracting is permitted upto a limited extent subject to the sub-contractor meeting the prescribed norms. In Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) projects, no norms had been prescribed for Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contractors appointed by the concessionaires. It is now prescribed that in BOT projects, the EPC contractors must have an experience of executing a single work of value not less than 20% of the Total Project Cost (TPC) or Rs.500 crore, whichever is less.

Study on crafts in J & K

*474.PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study in respect of the dying, languishing crafts of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) has been undertaken by his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry has not done any specific study for the languishing crafts of J & K State.

However, a study to suggest a definition of languishing craft has been undertaken by this Ministry. As part of preliminary survey, 35 crafts have been identified as languishing crafts in the country, as per the suggested definition, including six crafts *viz.* Yarknd Namdah, Pinjrakari, Pottery, Silver ware, Tepestry and Waagu from the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Different schemes are implemented by this Ministry for development of the crafts including those identified as languishing crafts through implementing partners which include interventions related to marketing, Design & Technological Skill Upgradation etc.

Further, Cluster Development programme, which provides for hand holding of artisans for integrated development through implementing partners for a period of five years, shall be undertaken for these crafts provided appropriate stake holders are available.

Besides, practicing craftpersons of languishing craft have been accorded preference for display and sale of their products in Gandhi Shilp Bazar which is a continuous marketing platform for artisans.

Amendment in IPC to change meaning of rape

*475. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently decided to amend the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and replace the word "Rape" with "Sexual assault"; and

(b) whether Government proposes to change the meaning of the word "Rape"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A High Powered Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary, which also includes Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Secretary, Legal Affairs, Secretary, Legislative Department, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women as Members, to examine the issue relating to the review of rape laws. The suggestions made by the Committee have been formulated into the draft Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2010. The Committee has suggested that the word "rape" be replaced by