

[26 July, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979: Ministry has agreed to change the title of the Act to Inter-State Migrant Workers' Act to make it gender neutral.

Factories Act, 1948: The proposal for permitting women to work in night shift in the factories has already been approved and the Bill has been introduced in the Parliament.

As State Governments are appropriate authorities for implementing the labour legislation, amendment in the Acts would require consultations with the State Governments as well as other stakeholders. Ministry has initiated action in this regard.

In case of recommendations with respect to other labour laws, Ministry has issued administrative orders, wherever necessary to the State Governments to provide for greater representation of women in various Committees and Boards and for appointing more women as Investigating Officers and Inspectors under various Acts.

No action is required in the case of Payment of Wages Act, Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 as there were sufficient protective provisions available under these Acts for the legal equality for women.

Branding of Handloom Products

*60. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to brand all handloom products in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):

(a) No, Sir. Government is not considering a proposal to brand all handloom products in the country. However, a scheme, namely, Handloom Mark Scheme has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 28th June, 2006, the purpose of which is to serve as guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is a genuinely hand-woven product and in that sense the Handloom Mark Scheme will provide a distinct identity to the handloom products. Further, Handloom Mark is only optional.

(b) The details of the Handloom Mark Scheme are given in the Statement.

Handloom Mark Scheme

The Hon'ble Finance Minister, in his budget speech on 28th February, 2006 had proposed launching of the Handloom Mark. The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has introduced 'Handloom Mark Scheme' for the domestic as well as international markets. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has launched the Scheme on 28th June, 2006. The Scheme will serve as a guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is genuinely hand woven.

Objective & scope of the Scheme

The Scheme will provide assurance to the consumer about the genuineness of the product origin. It will not only popularize Indian handlooms but also improve price realization of the handloom products in domestic and international markets. It will also improve the earnings of the handloom weavers for their hard work and skill. The Scheme covers all handloom fabrics and products made thereof. The Scheme will be operational throughout the country. Individual weavers, Weavers Cooperative societies, Master weavers, Retailers and Exporters are entitled to participate in the scheme and avail of its benefits.

Handloom Mark Logo

The Handloom Mark Logo has been developed by the National Institute of Designs, Ahmedabad. The Mark is in two forms. One for Domestic use: the word Handloom is written below the logo and the other for international marketing: same logo with the word hand woven IN INDIA written below it. One logo will be attached to each piece of handloom fabric/made-up or any other handloom products.



**Handloom
Implementing Agency**



**hand woven
IN INDIA**

The Textiles Committee- a statutory body in the Ministry of Textiles constituted under an act of Parliament in 1963, is the Implementing Agency for the Handloom Mark Scheme. The Textiles Committee will give the

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Handloom Mark labels-made of polyester taffeta material to the registered users as per their assessed production/sales capacity.

Categories of potential users/beneficiaries

Individual handloom weaver, Master handloom weaver, Primary Handloom Weaver's Cooperative Society, Apex Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society, Handloom Development Corporation, Traders/retailer (Domestic Market), Merchant Exporters and Manufacture exporters (Export market) **are**, the intended beneficiaries.

Modalities for obtaining Handloom Mark labels

Application forms can be obtained from the offices of Textiles Committee. In order to prevent the misuse of the scheme, the applicants will be registered on payment of a fee after onsite verification of the applicants. Labels will be supplied on the basis of estimated annual production and sale expect in the case of exporters (on quarterly basis). In case of exporters, the initial verification will be based on Chartered Accountant's certificate on previous year's performance. The registered users will be required to submit monthly returns.

Enforcement measures

Manufactures while supplying the handloom products to the merchant exporters, retailers etc. will be required to enclose a self-certificate that the product has been manufactured on handloom alongwith the other requisite commercial documents. Random verification of Handloom Mark product, penalty clause in the agreement for misuse of the Handloom Mark, action under the provisions of Trade Marks Act, 1999 and Copy Right Act, 1957 etc. will be the other measures.

Consumer concern

Any consumer having any doubt about the authenticity of product labeled with Handloom Mark can approach the Textiles Committee along with the copy of the bill and the code number. Based on the findings, Textiles Committee will initiate action according to the agreement entered into with the users and as per the Trade Marks Act, 1999. The consumer may also exercise the option of approaching the Consumer Courts.