

- vi) Government announced the following for the benefit of handloom sector in the Foreign Trade Policy proposals for the year 2009-2010:
- The incentive available under Focus Product Scheme (FPS) has been raised from 1.25% to 2%.
 - To simplify claims under FPS, requirement of 'Handloom Mark' for availing benefits under FPS has been removed.
 - Machinery and equipment for effluent treatment plants is exempted from customs duty.
 - Notification of new towns of export excellence with a threshold limit of Rs. 150 crore shall be notified.
- vii) Government has announced inclusion of sericulture and post cocoon activities upto the stage of production of silk yarn under Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to provide much needed support to this Sector.

Persons arrested in connection with honour killings

*155. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) total number of honour killings reported in the country in the last one year;
- (b) details of the number of persons arrested and action taken against them in such cases;
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to prevent such honour killings; and
- (d) whether Government is considering suitable amendment in existing laws, or bringing in new laws to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Many instances of alleged honour killings have been reported. As honour killing is not classified as a separate crime and it is treated as murder, information in this regard is not maintained separately by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

(c) and (d) As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Government of India is deeply concerned with the crime of honour killing

and other forms of violence. Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 to all State Governments/UT Administrations wherein States/UTs have been advised, *inter alia*, to make comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women and to take appropriate measures to curb the violation of women's rights by so called 'Honour killings'. Government is also actively considering a proposal to amend the existing law or to enact a separate law in order to tackle the crime of honour killings.

Tripartite Committee on cotton textile industry

*156. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Industrial Tripartite Committee on Cotton Textile Industry was held during the month of July, 2010;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the said meeting;

(c) whether any consensus has been arrived on the issues of modification in the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, flexible working hours, implementation of labour laws in the industry etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment chaired a meeting of the Industrial Tripartite Committee on the Cotton Textile Industry on 14th July, 2010. The Committee discussed the issues relating to modification in the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, flexible working hours, implementation of labour laws in the industry, revival of closed textile units, removal of camp coolie system adopted by textile units, contractualization of labour/outsourcing/fixed term employment, setting up of the National Wage Board for textile industry and Minimum Wages.

(c) and (d) In a tripartite framework, consensus building is an ongoing process. While the Trade Unions as well as Employers' Organisations were generally in favour of modification in the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, banning of the camp coolie system and better implementation of labour laws in the industry, there were divergent views regarding flexible working hours and setting up of the National Wage Board for textile industry.