

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a single mega cluster has been given to handloom sector of Bihar on which a large number of minority handloom weavers are based;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government will take to have at least one mega cluster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) :

(a) to (c) So far, mega handloom clusters at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhunagar (Tamilnadu) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) have been taken up as announced in the Budget for 2008-09 and 2009-10. One handloom cluster in Bhagalpur, covering about 5000 handlooms has been taken up in 2006-07 for its integrated and holistic development and is under implementation. In addition, 14 handloom clusters, each covering 300-500 handlooms have been taken up in the State of Bihar under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme during the period 2007-08 to 2009-10. Further, six Group Approach projects have been sanctioned upto 2009-10.

Child labour in Textile Industry

1949.DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has warned that Indian textile companies will be included in Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorisation Act (TVPR) List saying that our textile companies are using child labour;

(b) if so, whether Government has set up dedicated cells to investigate the cases of suspected child labour in the textile industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) :

(a) The United States Department of Labour has listed Indian Garments in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorisation Act (TVPR) list 2009. The TVPR list is a list of 122 goods from 58 countries, and does not name companies/industry.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Condition of weavers in UP

†1950. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.