

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): Shri M. Singaravelu, Member of the Commission, belongs to a Scheduled Castes.

#### Repair of National Highway No. 34

1185. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway No. 34 between Islampur and Krishnanagar in West Bengal requires immediate repairs for normal traffic movement, and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b) The stretch from Krishnanagar to Dalkhola (341 Kms) lies on National Highway 34 whereas that from Dalkhola to Islampur (about 59 Kms) lies on National Highway 31. Out of a total length of about 400 Kms between Krishnanagar and Islampur, only about 20 kms. had developed potholes and depressions due to very heavy rains during the last monsoons. Repairs necessary to ensure smooth flow of normal traffic have been carried out. Permanent remedial measures are in hand.

#### Strength of staff in the office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom)

1186. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of staff in the office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom) under the Department of Textiles at present in each category;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to

expand the office to cope with the requirements of handloom industry in the country;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) by when the office is likely to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) The present sanctioned strength of office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms is 83. Category-wise strength is as below:

Group 'A'	8
Group 'B'	13
Group 'C'	62
Group 'D'	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>

(b) to (d) While no specific proposal is under consideration at present, the need for expansion of this office depends upon expansion of schemes and programme pertaining to the development of Handloom industry in the country as approved by Government from time to time. As and when new schemes/projects are undertaken new posts may have to be created.

#### Handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu and Assam

1187. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu and Assam at present as full-time workers and part-time workers, respectively;

(b) what incentives Central Government have given to the handloom weavers in each of the two States;

(c) what is the number of weavers covered in Assam under the Centrally sponsored projects, project-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have not given any incentives to the handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu;

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(f) what incentives are proposed to be given to handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI):** (a)

There are over 5 lakhs handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu and over 7 lakhs handloom weavers in Assam. It is difficult to assess the precise ratio between full-time workers and part-time workers as no reliable data is available. However, generally speaking, most of the weavers in Tamil Nadu are full-time workers and most of the weavers in Assam are women who work during their spare time on their looms in their houses, as a domestic occupation.

(b) (i) In the case of Tamil Nadu, the Central Government have sanctioned two Intensive Development Projects to cover 10,000 looms each with a total financial outlay of Rs. 1.85 crores each. Besides, two Export Production Projects to cover 1,000 looms each and with a total financial outlay of Rs. 40 lakhs each have been sanctioned for Tamil Nadu. In the case of Intensive Development Projects the funds are to be shared between Central Government and the State Government and in the case of Export Production Project, the amount would have to be borne fully by the Central Government. So far Rs. 52.50 lakhs has been released by the Government of India for the two Intensive Development Projects and Rs. 20 lakhs has been released by the Government of India for the Export Production Projects.

Besides, on the Cooperative side, Rs. 27 lakhs has been released so far by Government of India to Tamil Nadu as share capital assistance for revival of dormant primary societies and formation of new societies. In addition, Rs. 35 lakhs has been released by the Central Government as share capital assistance to the State Apex Society i.e. Co-optex.

(ii) In the case of Assam, one Intensive Development Project covering 10,000 looms and with a total financial outlay of Rs. 1.85 crores has been sanctioned at Nalbari and one Export Production Project with a total financial outlay of Rs. 40 lakhs covering 1,000 looms has been sanctioned for Sualkuchi in Kamrup district. The pattern of assistance is the same as mentioned in the case of Tamil Nadu. The Central Government has released so far Rs. 15 lakhs as first instalment for Intensive Development Project and Rs. 10 lakhs for the Export Production Project.

On the cooperative side, Rs. 5 lakhs has been released by the Government of India as share capital assistance for revival of dormant primary societies and formation of new ones. Besides, Rs. 5 lakhs has been released for providing share capital assistance to the State Apex Society and Rs. 10 lakhs as share capital assistance to the Assam Government Marketing Corporation (which is the State Handloom Development Corporation responsible for the implementation of the Projects).

(c) In the case of Assam, 10,000 weavers are expected to be covered in the Intensive Development Project at Nalbari and 1,000 weavers are to be covered in the Export Production Project at Sualkuchi, within a period of 5 years from the date of inception of the project i.e. 1976-77.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise. Various development programmes are being

implemented for improving the incomes and giving more stable employment to the weavers.

### Production and export of handloom products

1188. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production in terms of value of handloom products in the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the value of the handloom products exported during the above period and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reserve some quota of handloom products for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Production data for the handloom sector are based on figures of civil deliveries of hank yarn by the textile mills. The value of production is derived from the annual average of prices of handloom cloth, as furnished by the Textiles Committee. The value of production of handloom goods during the last three years is accordingly estimated in round figures as under:—

Year	Value (in Rs. crores)
1974 . . . . .	940.00
1975 . . . . .	1,000.00
1976 . . . . .	1,020.00

(b) Exports of handloom goods during the last three years have been as under:—

Year	Value (in Rs. crores)
1974 . . . . .	121.32
1975 . . . . .	150.39
1976 . . . . .	236.68

(c) No, Sir.

### Financial assistance to States for the handloom sector

1189. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central assistance is provided to the State Governments for promotion of the handloom sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the amount of financial assistance given to each State during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Central Government is assisting State Governments for promotion of handloom sector through the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes:—

(1) Intensive Handloom Development Projects.

(2) Handloom Export Production Projects.

(3) Handloom Janata Cloth Scheme.

(4) Share Capital Assistance for Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies.