

No mega cluster in Gujarat

453. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that not even a single mega cluster has been given to handloom sector in Ahmedabad and Surat on which a large number of minority handloom weavers are based;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to have at least one mega cluster in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. So far, four Mega Handloom Clusters at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) have been taken up as announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget for 2008-09 and 2009-10. As per the guidelines of the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, each mega cluster should have atleast 25,000 handlooms. However, 9 handloom clusters, each covering 300-500 handlooms have been taken up in Gujarat under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme.

Amount under IHDA to Andhra Pradesh

454. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount that has been allocated and released to Andhra Pradesh under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that during 2010-11, an amount of Rs. 12.04 crores was allocated for IHDS but released only fifty per cent of it; and
- (c) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS), Central assistance is released to the State Governments on receipt of viable proposals. State-wise financial allocations are not made under IHDS. Financial assistance released to the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is as under: