

demand nor international demand. Domestic Mills are operating with 15 days inventories. With arrivals likely to increase from 1 lac bales/day to 3 lac bales/day and no domestic/international demand a sharp price moderation has taken place. The slowdown in domestic consumption, coupled with reduced international demand in Indian cotton has resulted in a significant glut of cotton in the country bringing down prices.

Loss of employment in textile sector

2451. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that handloom and textiles sectors which provide employment to lakhs of workers are facing a serious situation resulting in loss of employment to large number of workers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to alleviate the crisis; and

(c) the outcome of the measures if any taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) To assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment, Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment conducted a quick survey during January - March, 2011 (Tenth in the series). The survey covered important sectors including textiles and handlooms.

According to the said report, 733 textile units including apparel were surveyed and noticed that the employment has declined by 1.21 lakh during the period March, 2011 over December, 2010. Similarly, of those 96 units surveyed in handloom/power loom sector and it is observed that employment has declined by 0.18 lakh during the said period.

(b) To strengthen the textile industry and to increase the employment in the sector, Government of India has been implementing various schemes such as (i) Technology upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS); (ii) Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), and (iii) Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS).

Government of India is also implementing specific schemes for the development of Handloom Sector. For the development of handloom sector and welfare of Handloom weavers, five Schemes are under implementation during 11th Plan, which are (i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, (ii) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (iii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme and (v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

Recently, Government has also announced "Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector". The proposal includes reform of the financial, legal and institutional framework for the handloom weaver cooperative societies, one-time waiver of overdue loans

and interest of eligible handloom cooperative societies and individual weavers as on 31st March, 2010, recapitalization of viable and potentially viable handloom cooperative societies, and provision of fresh cheap credit to handloom cooperative societies and weavers covered by waiver by providing of interest subsidy of 3% for a period of 3 years for each fresh loan with credit guarantee. The total financial implication of this package is Rs. 3884 crore, out of which Government of India's share is Rs. 3137 crore and the share of the State Governments is Rs. 747 crore.

(c) Due to implementation of the above schemes of Government, consolidation has occurred in the handloom sector. Consequently, the number of mandays worked per weaver has gone up from 197 (Census 1995-96) days to 234 days (2009-10). Likewise, share of full time weavers to the total weavers has gone up from 44% to 64% during the same period. Furthermore, share of idle looms has declined from 10% to 4%.

Scheme to upgrade handloom and handicraft industry

2452. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to upgrade handloom and handicraft industry and technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken thereon and funds allotted State-wise during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether there is any scheme to upgrade the textile technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the funds provided for the purpose to each institution and the States in which these institutions are located and the total export of handlooms and other textile products during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, there is a scheme of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to upgrade handlooms and technology. There is also a scheme called Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme for Upgradation of Handicraft Sector.

(b) The TUF Scheme for Handlooms was circulated to all State Governments/UTs, Weavers Service Centers, National Handlooms Development Corporation, Handlooms Export Promotion Council and other Organizations. Funds are not allotted State Wise under this scheme in Handlooms and Handicraft Sector.

(c) Yes Sir, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is the Ministry's flagship scheme for Upgradation of textile technology.