

(b) and (c) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes and regulates their working conditions in those occupations/processes where they are not prohibited from working. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- or with both. Regarding the issue of wages, wages of all employees are governed by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(d) Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) for rehabilitation of children rescued/withdrawn from hazardous work. Under the Project, children rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in special schools where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system.

#### **Introducing new textile mills**

2447. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to introduce new textile mills in the country to increase the production of textile products;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for development of textile industry and also to provide employment to the jobless weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) While there is no proposal for the Government to introduce new mills *per se*, as per the revival scheme for National Textile Corporation (NTC) approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), viable mills of NTC are to be revived through sale of surplus assets of the company. Accordingly, 24 viable mills are approved for revival by NTC, of which 4 are to be revived through relocation. Government provides a conducive environment for setting up of new Textile Mills in the country.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Government has taken several steps for the development of textiles industry in the country which include *inter-alia* the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate modernisation/technology upgradation; the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) to provide world class infrastructure; the Integrated Skill Development Scheme to provide employable skills; the Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (TMTT) to promote the growth of technical textiles etc. For Powerloom and Handloom weavers, several schemes have been designed to ensure that the basic needs of the weavers are fulfilled and employment is

promoted. For powerloom weavers, the Group Insurance Scheme, Group Workshed Scheme and Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development have been introduced. In the Handloom Sector, the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme; Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme; Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme; Mill Gate Price Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme are designed for the holistic development of handloom weavers and ancillary workers.

#### **Filling up backlog vacancies**

2448. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether provision inserted *vide* the 81st Amendment to the Constitution is being followed in the Ministry for all groups *i.e.* Group A to Group D;
- (b) whether backlog vacancies are notified and filled up every year;
- (c) the reasons, if any, for not following the procedure; and
- (d) the details of backlog vacancies filled during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Guidelines/Orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, the nodal Department for formulating reservation related policies and procedures including filling up of backlog vacancies, are followed by the concerned cadre controlling authorities of various services nominating officials against cadre posts in the Ministry of Textiles.

#### **Plan to provide relief to weavers**

†2449. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated a plan worth ` 5,234 crores to provide relief to 13 lakh weavers of the country;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and names of the States in the country and number of weavers therein, estimated to be benefited under this plan; and
- (c) the respective percentage of the weavers therefrom belonging to the area of handloom, powerloom and mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has approved a Financial Package of Rs.3884 crore, out of which Government of India's share is Rs. 3137 crore and the share of the State Government is Rs. 747 crore, for one time waiver of overdue loans and interest of handloom cooperative societies

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.