

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The above mentioned handloom schemes have been designed keeping in view the requirements of the handloom manufacturers, from pre-loom to post-loom to publicity and marketing. The benefits of these schemes are being availed by various States, including Bihar for development of the handloom sector and welfare of the handloom weavers. The Powerloom Service Centre at Bhagalpur in Bihar is also imparting training under Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) as well as regular training to powerloom workers.

#### **Relief provided to Maharashtra Textile Industry**

1216. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of bringing cotton and yarn under Essential Commodities Act;

(b) whether Government has any plan to provide cotton and yarn at cheaper rates to the Textile Industry in Maharashtra as requested by State Government;

(c) if so, the details of relief being provided to the Maharashtra Textile Industry; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No Sir, there is no proposal to amend the provisions of Essential Commodities Act with regard to cotton and cotton yarn.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

#### **Target-fixed scheme for handloom industry**

1217. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maximum employment can be provided to the labour class in the country with expansion and development of handloom industry in the country;