

adequate fire prevention measures. Norms for inspection and supervision by senior management of Cotton Corporation of India were issued, vigilance supervision and Board level supervision strengthened.

Cotton Corporation of India was directed to enhance coordination with State Government and District Collectors with APMCs being responsible for farmer identification.

From March, 2013, cotton prices have risen above MSP prices and Cotton Corporation of India is no longer conducting any procurement under MSP operations.

#### **Development of handloom sector**

1067. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced and unsatisfactory plight of the people of handloom sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any recommendations from the State Governments along with Jharkhand for release of financial assistance to the handloom sector;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for the development of handloom sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Government of India is aware about the constraints/ problems being faced by the handloom weavers throughout the country primarily due to low productivity, stiff competition from powerloom and mill sector, inadequate inputs supply and marketing facilities/channels as well as insufficient credit flow from institutional sources.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has been receiving requests from States including Jharkhand for release of financial assistance for various plan schemes/ projects. Financial assistance to State of Jharkhand has been provided for development of 35 cluster projects, 90 'group approach' projects. Further, loan waiver of 27 primary co-operative societies and 369 individual weavers, as recommended by State

Implementation, Monitoring and Review Committee has been approved. One Mega handloom cluster at Godda has also been sanctioned in the State of Jharkhand. Besides, financial assistance has also been released for organising marketing events and providing health and life insurance to handloom weavers of Jharkhand.

(e) For the overall development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers, the Government of India has taken various policy initiatives and schemes interventions like cluster approach, technological upgradation, marketing promotion, revival of viable and potentially viable societies through loan waiver and recapitalization assistance, availability of subsidized yarn and credit, besides, providing health and life insurance cover to the handloom weavers. The following central Government schemes are available for the development of the handloom sector:-

1. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme.
2. Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme.
3. Handloom Weaver's Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
4. Diversified Handlooms Development Scheme.
5. Mill Gate Price Scheme.
6. Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package as well as Comprehensive Package for Handloom Sector.

#### **Number of handloom cooperatives**

1068. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of handlooms and handloom cooperatives running in the country;

(b) their State-wise number in 2005; and

(c) whether Ministry is helping the weavers, master weavers and cooperative societies, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) As per All India Handloom Census (2009-10), there are 23.77 lakh handlooms (State-wise details are given in Statement-I (*See* below)). Further, there are 44 Apex and