

Support to textile industry of Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra

311. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ichalkaranji was used to be known as Manchester of India for having a large number of handlooms for manufacture of quality cotton;

(b) whether Government is aware that majority of handlooms have either been closed down or are on verge of closure because of high production cost and lack of marketing facilities making thousands of craftsmen jobless;

(c) the steps Government plans to take to support the local Textile industry of Ichalkaranji; and

(d) the further action Government proposes to take to establish more handloom clusters in Maharashtra to promote the handloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra is known as Manchester of Maharashtra for its powerlooms and Textile industries.

(b) According to the information received from the State Government, the number of handlooms in Ichalkaranji are very less compared to powerlooms because most of the handloom weavers have diversified to powerloom industry. As per the record, only one handloom co-operative society is registered in Ichalkaranji, and in 2014-15 there were 9 handlooms out of which only 3 handlooms were found working in Ichalkaranji.

(c) There are more than 2 lakh powerlooms in Ichalkaranji. Similarly there are about 170 processing and dyeing units in Ichalkaranji. There are 15 co-operatives and 7 private spinning mills in Kolhapur Distt. Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park, 4 Textile Parks are being set up in Ichalkaranji. Under this scheme, the Central Government has financed ₹ 72.95 crore and State Government has financed ₹ 14.61 crore. Apart from this, Government of India has sanctioned a Mega Cluster Project in Ichalkaranji.

(d) Government of India is providing financial assistance under National Handloom Development Programme Scheme (NHDP) for technology upgradation, product development through design innovation, skill upgradation etc. During the year 2016-17, the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for skill upgradation envisaging financial assistance of ₹ 8,56,000/-. The same has duly been considered and a sum of ₹ 8,56,000/- has been released for skill upgradation of 40 weavers.