charges @ 2% is given to depot operating agencies. A component of 10% price subsidy also exists on hank yarn, which is applicable on cotton, domestic silk, wool and linen yarn with quantity caps.

Manufacturing of fake handloom products

613. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake products of handloom items are plentily manufactured in the mills and powerloom sector at the cost of handloom market; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to stop this infiltration and protect the interest of the handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Government has been implementing the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 for production of reserved items only on Handlooms and to protect the interest of handlooms weavers in the country. 11 textiles articles with some technical specifications are exclusively reserved for production on handlooms. Central Assistance is provided under the Scheme to eligible State Governments for effective implementation of the Act. Inspections are carried out in the field by respective State Handloom Departments and field offices of the Central Govt for enforcing the provisions of the Act.

The Government has introduced 'Handloom Mark' to identify products woven on handlooms. Awareness creation activities are carried out from time to time to popularise these measures.

65 important and famous traditional handloom products have been registered under the Geographical Indications (GI) of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Registered users of GI products have rights under the Act to approach the respective police authorities to safeguard their interests against illegal manufacturing / marketing of GI registered handloom products. State Handlooms & Textiles Departments have been advised to make special efforts to provide protection to such GI registered handloom products.