

(in Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Net Operating Profit(Loss)*	Cumulative Profit(Loss)*
1999-2000	(185.75)	(1332.16)
2000-2001	(304.04)	(1636.20)
2001-2002	(387.37)	(2023.57)

\* As per provisional accounts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided by Government of Orissa, the Konark Jute Limited has been incurring losses since its inception. For long-term revival of the company, the State Government have taken a policy decision to privatize the Konark Jute Limited.

#### **Non-Purchase of handloom items by Government departments**

†2931. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that stock of handloom and khadi items has piled up with the weavers;

(b) whether this situation has developed because of non-purchase of handloom items by the Government departments;

(c) whether Government propose to take any concrete action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Government Departments do not purchase all the items produced on handlooms.

(c) and (d) In so far as handlooms are concerned, the Government is providing assistance under the Marketing Incentive component of the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan yojana which the handloom agencies are expected to use towards activities which would attract consumers in order to gear up the overall sales of handloom goods. The Government is also providing assistance for holding of National Handloom Expos,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

District Level events, Craft Melas and Urban Haats where handloom goods can be sold. In addition, the Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) is also functioning as the nodal agency for the supply of handloom goods to be purchased by the Central Government Departments/Agencies. ACASH has supplied handloom items worth Rs. 2217.24 lakh during 2000-01, Rs. 2506.62 lakh during 2001-02 and Rs. 1065.04 lakh during 2002-03 (upto 15.3.2003). The Government is also in the process of introducing a scheme for allowing one time special rebate @ 10% on sale of handloom goods which is awaiting approval of the competent authorities.

Regarding khadi items, the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries has informed that the stock in khadi items was mainly attributed to the production of goods which are not as per demand and tastes of the Market. Most of the khadi producing institutions located in rural areas could not cope with fast changing consumers' tastes, particularly in cotton textile materials. In order to reduce the stocks, the KVIC has initiated various measures like organisation of exhibitions, modernisation of sales outlets, discouraging khadi institutions from producing unsaleable khadi, relaxation in certification rules, enforcing quality norms etc. At National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, a separate division has been opened for taking care of design input in khadi sector. NID has also organised various training programmes for the benefit of khadi sector. With a view to bring qualitative changes in the pre-processing of marketable khadi fabrics and products, KVIC has made tie up arrangement with Dastakar Andhra, Hyderabad to organise training cum workshop in natural/vegetable dying for the technical workers of the institutions. Under the woollen khadi programme, KVIC also established linkages with the rural non-farm development agency, Rajasthan (RUDA) on S&T projects in revitalisation of certain institutions engaged in woollen khadi production. All these efforts are expected to bring considerable improvement in the quality of khadi products thereby its market avenues. In October, 2002, all the Chief Ministers had also been requested to impress upon the State Departments, undertaking etc. to accord purchase preference to khadi products.