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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND
SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

(2023-24)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

**Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fiftieth
Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Welfare Schemes and Social
Security Measures for Textile Workers in Organised and Unorganised
Sectors' pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.**

FIFTY-SEVENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2024/ Magha, 1945 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 07.02.2024

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2024



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2024/ Magha, 1945 (Saka)

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* Not appended with this cyclostyled copy.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND
SKILL DEVELOPMENT (2023-24)**

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
4. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
5. Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi
6. Shri Satish Kumar Gautam
7. Shri Bache Gowda B.N.
8. Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav
9. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
10. Adv. Dean Kuriakose
11. Shri Pakauri Lal
12. Prof. Sanjay Sadashivrao Mandlik
13. Shri Dayakar Pasunoori
14. Shri Khalilur Rahaman
15. Dr. D. Ravikumar
16. Shri Naba (Hira) Kumar Sarania
17. Shri Bhola Singh
18. Shri Ganesh Singh
19. Shri Nayab Singh
20. Shri K. Subbarayan
21. Shri Giridhari Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Naresh Bansal
23. Shri Neeraj Dangi
24. Shri R. Dharmar
25. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
26. Shri Elamaram Kareem
27. Ms. Dola Sen
28. Shri M. Shanmugam
29. Shri Shibu Soren
30. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar
31. Shri Binoy Viswam

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Jadumani Baisakh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Sanjay Sethi - Director
3. Shri Sandeep Kumar Malhotra - Assistant Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development (2023-24) having been authorized by the Committee, present on their behalf this Fifty-Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Welfare Schemes and Social Security Measures for Textile Workers in Organised and Unorganised Sectors' pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Fiftieth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 4th August, 2023. The Ministry of Textiles furnished their replies on 10th November, 2023 indicating Action Taken on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Fiftieth Report. The Committee considered and adopted the Draft Report at their sitting held on 5th February, 2024.

3. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) is given at Appendix-II.

4. For ease of reference, Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
05 February, 2024
16 Magha, 1945 (Saka)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR,
TEXTILES AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER- I REPORT

This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Welfare Schemes and Social Security Measures for Textile Workers in Organised and Unorganised Sectors' of the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Fiftieth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 4th August, 2023. It contained 16 Observations/ Recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the Recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

| | |
|--|--|
| (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government – Rec. Para Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15 | Chapter-II Total:13 Percentage: 81.25 |
| (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply – Nil | Chapter-III Total:00 Percentage: 00 |
| (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration – Rec. Para Nos. 14 and 16 | Chapter-IV Total:02 Percentage: 12.50 |
| (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature - Rec. Para No.12 | Chapter-V Total:01 Percentage: 06.25 |

3. **The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes in respect of Observations/ Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken reply in respect of the Recommendation contained in Chapter V of this Report, for which interim reply has been given by the Government, be furnished to them at the earliest.**

4. **The Committee will now deal with some of their earlier Observations/ Recommendations which either require reiteration or merit further comments.**

I. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

(Recommendation Para Nos. 1 and 2)

5. In their Fiftieth Report, the Committee had noted that the number of enrolments of Handloom weavers under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) declined substantially from 1,09,108 beneficiaries in 2021-22 to 43,421 in 2022-23 with major decrease being in Manipur from 1,07,565 in 2021-22 to 27,488 in 2022-23. The Committee had also noted that there was 'nil' enrolment of handloom workers under PMJJBY/PMSBY and converged Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) in 2020-21 following the transition to full payment regime w.e.f. 01.04.2020. The Ministry also admitted that due to increase in share of contribution of State Government/Beneficiary under PMJJBY and PMSBY, lesser enrolment was observed in Several States. The Committee had noted that discontinuation of premium share of Rs. 100 under Social Security Fund w.e.f. 01.04.2020 with consequent increase in contribution of State Governments/beneficiary is the primary reason for decline in enrolment under PMJJBY and PMSBY. The Committee also found that only 03 States i.e. Karnataka, Kerala and Sikkim were contributing premium share under PMJJBY. As informed by the Ministry, despite taking up the matter with the State Governments on numerous occasions, the States had not been contributing their share. Observing that the outcome of the Schemes is not upto the desired level, the Committee had exhorted the Ministry to strengthen their monitoring and coordination mechanism and continue to pursue the matter with the State Governments so that the intended social security benefits are made available to the beneficiaries. The Committee also desired that such modifications, as may be appropriate may also be considered for being carried out in the Schemes so as to ensure their viability in providing social security benefits.

6. The Committee appreciated that a new initiative was introduced in October, 2021 under which, scholarship upto Rs.2.00 lakh per annum is provided to handloom worker's children (upto 2 children) for pursuing Diploma/Under Graduate/Post Graduate courses from recognized Textiles Institutions. The Committee, however, found that only 45 applicants were sanctioned the scholarship. Observing that for effective implementation of the initiative, more coordination and cooperation from State Governments at District/ Block level is required, the Committee had urged upon the Ministry to strengthen the coordination and monitoring mechanism and also vigorously pursue the State Governments to spread awareness about the scheme at the grass root level and motivate the eligible Handloom workers at the village level/most rural/backward areas to avail the facility so that the targeted persons are actually benefitted. The Committee had also emphasized that

periodical reviews of such exercise be undertaken so that the laudable intent of providing scholarships to the eligible children is well served. The Committee had further desired that the possibility of introducing a scholarship scheme for handicraft workers' children on lines similar to the Scheme already in place for children of the handloom workers be considered.

7. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles have stated as follows :-

“(a) Handlooms: For monitoring and coordination mechanism, the office of DC(Handloom) has written on 24.05.2023 to Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, In-charge of Handlooms of all States/UTs Government to personally intervene in the matter towards implementation of scheme components (PMJJBY, PMSBY, Financial support to Awardee weavers and Scholarship to weavers' children) in 100% saturation mode and to ensure that awareness camps are organized in coordination with the field offices of this office and banks in all handloom pockets in their respective State/UT.

Also, a letter dated 16.06.2023 has been sent to all field offices of this office to take expeditious steps to achieve the targets assigned for improving the performance of the welfare schemes which will, in turn, encourage the livelihood of handloom weavers/workers.

(b) Handicrafts: The suggestions of the committee for modification in the scheme so as to ensure their viability in providing social security benefits has been noted for compliance and would be placed before the EFC committee at the time of revision of scheme.”

”.....The suggestion of the Committee for possibility of introducing scholarship scheme for handicraft artisan's children to ensure their viability for providing benefits to the artisans has been noted for compliance and would be placed before the EFC committee at the time of revision of scheme.”

8. The Committee, in their earlier Report, had noted that discontinuation of premium share of Rs. 100 under Social Security Fund w.e.f. 01.04.2020 with consequent increase in contribution of State Governments/beneficiary was the primary reason for decline in enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). The Committee also found that only 03 States i.e. Karnataka, Kerala and Sikkim were contributing premium share under PMJJBY. Observing that the outcome of the Schemes is not upto the desired level, the Committee had desired the Ministry to strengthen their monitoring and coordination mechanism and pursue the matter with the State Governments. The Committee have now been apprised that in May, 2023, the Ministry had requested Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretary in charge of handlooms of all

States/UT Governments to personally intervene in the matter. The reply furnished to the Committee in October, 2023, however, does not mention anything about the outcome of communications sent to all concerned especially whether the remaining States/UTs have started contributing their share. The Committee feel that the response received from the States/UTs need to be shared so that the Committee is kept apprised of the developments/shortcomings so as to suggest further course of action. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to continue to pursue the matter with States/UTs so as to increase enrolments under the Scheme and thereby achieve the objective of providing universal and social security in case of natural/accidental death and total or partial disability to the intended beneficiaries.

9. In the context of recommendation of the Committee regarding introducing a Scholarship Scheme for handicraft workers' children on lines similar to the Scheme already in place for children of the handloom workers, the Ministry have stated that the matter would be placed before the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). As the Scheme proposed to be introduced would immensely help handicraft workers' children, the Committee desire that the matter be not kept pending for indefinite period of time and decided in a time bound manner. The Committee wish to be apprised of the progress in this regard.

II. Mudra Loans

(Recommendation Para No. 5)

10. In their earlier Report, the Committee had noted that a centralized online claim disbursement system "Handloom Weavers Mudra Portal" was developed in association with the Nodal Bank *viz.* Punjab National Bank (PNB), which separately captures the data on loans sanctioned to weavers and artisans. Observing that the portal does not capture data on the loan amount disbursed and the Ministry had taken up the matter of re-customizing the portal with the Bank, the Committee had impressed upon the Ministry to ensure that the re-customization is completed in a time bound manner so that the data on disbursements etc. is comprehensively made available on the portal.

11. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles have stated as follows :-

“Feature for capturing the disbursement data has been incorporated in the Handloom Weaver MUDRA Portal in August, 2023. So far, disbursement data is not available on the portal.”

12. While appreciating that the feature for capturing the disbursement data has now been incorporated in “Handloom Weavers Mudra Portal” in August, 2023, the Committee desire that the data on loan amount disbursed to weavers and artisans be made available on the portal in a time bound manner through issuance of appropriate instructions to all Banks through Punjab National Bank/Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) so as to ensure online availability of data of loans sanctioned as well as disbursed to the beneficiaries.

III. Pahchan Card to weavers/artisans

(Recommendation Para No. 7)

13. In their earlier Report, the Committee had noted that as on 04.06.2023, out of 35.22 lakh handloom workers, comprising 26.73 lakh weavers and 8.49 lakh allied workers, Pahchan cards were issued only to 17.15 lakh workers and the remaining 18.07 lakh workers (more than 50%) were to be issued Pahchan cards. The Committee also noted that the situation is, however, better in the case of handicraft artisans as out of 30 lakh identified artisans, 26.72 lakh artisans were issued Pahchan Cards. Observing that a sizeable number of weavers/artisans were to be issued Pahchan Cards, the Committee had impressed upon the Ministry to chalk out a robust mechanism to identify the causes behind non-issuance of Pahchan Cards to all the eligible Handloom weavers/handicraft artisans and expedite the procedure of issuing the Cards to all the eligible weavers/artisans so that they can avail the benefits of all social security and welfare schemes intended for them. Further, considering the fact that the process of manufacturing being time consuming during which there is no income generated to support livelihood to handicraft artisans, the Committee had desired the Ministry to explore the possibility of issuing a ‘credit card’ to the artisans on lines similar to Kisan Credit Card so that these artisans can also derive the benefit of some form of financial assistance under indigent circumstances.

14. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles have stated as follows :-

“(a) Handlooms: 17.38 lakh Pahchan cards have been issued to eligible handloom workers as on 10.09.2023. Details of Pahchan cards of all handloom workers of 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20 are accessible from website of this office i.e. www.handlooms.nic.in as below:-

<https://tricorniotec.com/webapp/portal>

User ID:- ministry

Password:- ministry@2022

Handloom workers may avail the benefits of handloom schemes, implemented by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India for procurement of raw materials, common infrastructure development, skilling, marketing of handloom products in domestic/overseas markets, concessional credit etc.

(b) Handicrafts: The mobilization of handicrafts artisans across the country is regular process of the Handicrafts Service Centre by organizing Chaupals /Shivirs/ Craft Awareness programme for issuance of PAHCHAN card to handicrafts artisans. The handicrafts artisans enrolled under PAHCHAN would be eligible for all the benefit of the scheme implemented for promotion and development of handicrafts sector. These artisans can also avail the interest subsidy and margin money on MUDRA loan amount. However, the suggestions of the committee to issuance of Credit card has been noted similar to Kisan Credit card and would be placed before the Committee at the time of revision of EFC for their consideration.”

15. The Committee note that, as on 10.09.2023, out of 35.22 lakh handloom workers, Pahchan Cards were issued to only 17.38 lakh workers (approx. 50%) and almost equal number of Pahchan Cards are yet to be issued. Observing that the progress continues to be very slow and still a lot needs to be done, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to identify the causes behind non-issuance of Pahchan Cards to all the eligible beneficiaries with a sense of urgency and commitment, iron out the bottlenecks, and, thereafter, take all possible measures to ensure issuance of Pehchan Cards to all the handloom workers for development and promotion of the handloom sector.

16. As the matter relating to issue of Credit Cards to the artisans on the lines similar to Kisan Credit Cards is proposed to be placed before Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for their consideration, the

Committee impress upon the Ministry to ensure that the guidelines for formulation, appraisal and approval of the proposal are strictly adhered to and the matter is placed before EFC in the stipulated time frame.

IV. Pension to Awardee Weavers/Artisans

(Recommendation Para No. 8)

17. In their earlier Report, the Committee had noted that another new initiative was taken in October, 2021, under which pension of Rs.8,000 per month is granted to awardee weavers/artisans above 60 years of age, in indigent circumstances and having annual income below Rs.1 lakh. Observing that the Scheme had eventually benefitted only such awardees whose income is less than the per day minimum wages, the Committee had recommended reviewing the ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh per annum and raise it to a reasonable amount so that more persons avail the benefits of this Scheme which provides old age protection. The Committee further noted that in 2022-23, in the handloom sector, 80 handloom awardees were benefitted whereas in the handicrafts sector, 339 handicraft awardees were benefitted. Noting that one of the reasons for selection of low number of beneficiaries is the dearth of awareness, the Committee had desired the Ministry to put in extra efforts to create awareness in the rural and backward areas of the country through print, electronic and social media and also make concerted efforts with the State Governments through the Chaupals organized at village/block level.

18. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles have stated as follows :-

“(a) Handlooms: Review for enhancement of annual income ceiling of Rs.1.00 lakh per awardee has been noted for further consideration.

This office has written a D.O. letter to Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, In-charge of Handlooms of all States/UTs Government to personally intervene in the matter towards implementation of scheme components (PMJJBY, PMSBY, Financial support to Awardee weavers and Scholarship to weavers’ children) in 100% saturation mode and to ensure that awareness camps are organized in coordination with the field offices of this office and banks in all handloom pockets in their respective State/UT.

Also, a letter dated 16.06.2023 has been sent to all field offices of this office to take expeditious steps to achieve the targets assigned for improving the performance of the welfare schemes.

(b) Handicrafts: The suggestion of the Committee has been noted for its compliance at the time for forming the EFC. To cover a greater number of artisans under the component of Financial support to artisans in indigent circumstances, wide publicity would be made through leading newspaper /social media/village /block level as well as by organizing the camps in the craft cluster pockets/DICs/State Handicrafts Development Corporations.”

19. The Committee, in their earlier Report, had recommended for enhancement of annual income ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh so as to cover more awardee weavers/artisans above 60 years of age for grant of pension of Rs. 8000 per month. The Committee, however, find that the Ministry have simply responded that the observations of the Committee have been noted. The Committee had also emphasized for the need to create awareness of scheme amongst the intended beneficiaries in the rural and backward areas. In this context, in the case of handloom sector, the reply mentions about the action taken by the Ministry whereas in the case of handicrafts sector, an assurance has been given that 'awareness campaign would be launched. The Committee impress upon the Ministry that, in future, while responding to the observations/recommendations, it may be ensured that in cases, where action has been initiated, the outcome of the same may be indicated to the extent possible and in cases, where the action is proposed to be taken or an assurance is given, the tentative timeline by which the action/assurance would be initiated or completed/met at the ground level be provided so as to make Committee aware of the status of progress of implementation of their recommendations/observations.

V. Conversion of Plain Powerlooms into Automatic Powerloom

(Recommendation Para No. 12)

20. In their earlier Report, the Committee had noted that most of the powerlooms are plain powerlooms with outdated technology, which needed to be upgraded into automatic looms for improving the quality and quantity of the fabric. Considering the constraints faced on this aspect *viz.* dearth of working capital with the powerloom workers and lack of raw material, etc., the Committee, while recommending the Ministry to chalk out an infallible strategy to overcome these challenges, had desired that a fresh scheme may be formulated for providing low cost financial assistance and credit facility especially to Powerloom workers for upgrading their looms and also provide adequate support to acquire raw materials besides providing market linkages through development of e-Portal on the lines of the portal developed for Handloom Weavers/Handicraft Workers. The Committee had also desired the Ministry to set up a mechanism to sensitize and instruct the powerloom workers regarding procedure of upgradation of plain looms into the shuttleless/automatic looms and train them to operate them.

21. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles have stated as follows :-

“The Ministry is in an advanced stage for conducting a fresh base-line survey on Powerloom sector. In addition, it is considered to strengthen raw material availability support besides providing market linkages through development of e-Portal on the lines of the portal developed for Handloom Weavers/Handicraft Workers. To have traceability of support, a robust survey can help implement any focused /IT enabled verifiable initiatives from the Public resources, may be in partnership with State Governments. These can be feeders to sector as are the Mega Infra initiatives being done in partnership with state Governments.

22. The Committee had desired that a fresh scheme be formulated for providing low cost financial assistance and credit facility to Powerloom workers for upgrading their looms. The Ministry have, however, stated that they are in an advanced stage of conducting a fresh base-line survey on Powerloom Sector. The Ministry also propose to strengthen raw material support to workers and market linkages through development of e-Portal on the lines of Portal developed for Handloom Weavers/Handicraft Workers. The Committee desire that the base line survey and other initiatives proposed for the benefit of powerloom workers be completed/provided in a time bound manner and, thereafter, measures be initiated to provide financial assistance to them for upgrading plain looms into automatic looms and also train them to operate such looms.

VI. Women Workers in Powerloom Sector

(Recommendation Para No. 14)

23. The Committee in their earlier Report had observed that most of the work in Powerloom Sector is being undertaken by the women workers, as such, it becomes obligatory on the part of the Ministry to pay special attention to the needs of the female workers and day-to-day problems/challenges being faced by them so as to ensure that remedial steps are taken to provide them basic amenities viz. restrooms, separate wash areas, crèche facilities besides healthcare facilities, etc. Observing that around 90% of all major looms installed are concentrated mainly in four States viz. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, the Committee had impressed upon the Ministry to make concerted efforts with these States to conduct field visits to the powerloom clusters so as to have a realistic idea of the problems being faced by women workers and take corrective or remedial measures.

24. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles have stated as follows :-

“Once the baseline survey on Powerloom sector is completed, while formulating new policy/ scheme for Powerloom sector, the observations made by the Committee would be looked into.”

25. The reply of the Ministry is silent on the recommendation of the Committee to conduct field visits to the powerloom clusters in four States viz. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh to gauge the problems/challenges being faced by women workers. The Ministry have, however, stated that while formulating new policy/ scheme for Powerloom Sector, the observations made by the Committee would be looked into. This indicates a casual approach in responding to the observations of the Parliamentary Committee advising the Ministry to pay special attention to the needs of female workers. Considering the fact that urgent steps need to be taken to address day-to-day problems being faced by women workers in powerloom sector, the Committee exhort the Ministry to accord priority in conducting field visits to four States and take remedial measures to address the issue.

VII. Jute Sector

(Recommendation Para No. 16)

26. The Committee in their earlier Report had noted that the Jute Sector provides direct employment to 40 lakh farm families, 2 lakh workers in organized mills, 2 lakh in value added diversification activities, 3 lakh in tertiary and allied sectors and a large number of persons engaged in the trade of jute. The Committee were apprised that the final report of the study conducted in 2014/2015 by National Jute Board (NJB) on ‘Occupational Health of the Workers in the Jute producing units in India’, which *inter-alia* suggested extending Provident Fund and maternity benefits for female workers, was forwarded by NJB to Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) for dissemination among the Jute Mills and taking necessary action. The Committee were also apprised that permanent workers are provided with Provident Fund and ESIC benefits as also maternity benefits by the jute mills. Observing that the Ministry of Textiles is the nodal agency for safeguarding the overall interest of jute workers, the Committee had desired the Ministry to make concerted efforts and ensure that all jute mills implement the recommendations on social security measures so as to improve overall health condition of jute workers irrespective of the nature of their employment viz. permanent or temporary, which would be in tune with the provisions of the

Code on Social Security, 2020 and The Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

27. In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Textiles have stated as follows:-

“Action taken report on the observation taken by Jute Mills on Welfare Scheme and Social Security Measures are given below:

- Introduction of face mask to workers working in Jute selection department.
- Installation of high power dust extraction & collection system in Spreader machine which restricts dust particles to mix in breathable air.
- Reduction of Noise level by introducing shuttle less looms 8S putting covers in all machines including reduction of accidents.
- Replacing old Tube lights by LED in the production area which has increased illumination & thus better visibility.
- IJIRA has introduced Protective Gloves which are being used.
- Introduction of Sprinklers in Drawing, Spinning & Weaving department, has restricted fibre dust mix with air.
- Introduction of Fork Lift in transportation of heavy bales, has reduced loads on workers.
- Introduction of Shuttle-less loom connected with Warp Winding Machine, has replaced manually operated Copwinding machine for weaving Hessian and Sacki ng cloth fabric.
- Making of multiple Hygienic sanitation units for workers.
 - Workers quarters have been renovated for healthy living.”

28. The Committee take cognizance of the facilities/amenities like face masks, installation of high power dust extraction and collection system, replacing old tube lights by LEDs, Protective Gloves, Hygienic Sanitation Units, renovation of workers quarters, etc. provided by Jute Mills to workers. The reply of the Ministry, however, does not touch upon the need expressed by the Committee for providing social security measures viz. Provident Fund, medical and maternity benefits to jute workers by Jute Mills irrespective of the nature of their employment viz. permanent or temporary. The Committee desire that appropriate action be taken by the Ministry for providing medical facilities, old age protection and improving working conditions in tune with the provisions Code on Social

**Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety Health and Working
Conditions Code, 2020.**

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation Para No. 1)

For providing universal and affordable Social Security in case of Natural/accidental death and total or partial disability, the Ministry of Textiles runs three Schemes/ Programmes viz. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY); Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY); and Converged Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY). Under PMJJBY Scheme, renewable life insurance cover is provided for death due to any reason for one-year, for those in the age group of 18-50 years. PMSBY Scheme provides renewable accidental insurance cover on death or disability for one-year, for persons in the age group of 18-70 years. MGBBY provides renewable life and accidental insurance cover on death or disability for a closed group of handloom workers in the age group of 51-59 years. As informed, a clarification was issued by the Ministry of Finance that the insurance schemes be implemented with full premium payment regime with effect from 01.04.2020. The Ministry further stated that Social security share of Rs.100/-, which was earlier borne by LIC will henceforth be borne by State Government/Beneficiary. Accordingly, the share of State Government/Beneficiary has increased to Rs.180/- from Rs.80/- w.e.f. 01.04.2020. Also, premium of PMJJBY increased from Rs.330/- to Rs.436/- w.e.f. 01.06.2022 resulting in increased premium share of State Government/Beneficiaries from Rs.180/- to Rs.286/-. In this regard, the Ministry further informed that premium amount of PMJJBY has been revised in the ratio 5:6 between Government of India (Rs.198) and State Government/Beneficiary (Rs.238) during 2023-24. The Committee note that the number of enrolments of Handloom weavers under PMSBY declined substantially from 1,09,108 beneficiaries in 2021-22 to 43,421 in 2022-23 with major decrease being in Manipur from 1,07,565 in 2021-22 to 27,488 in 2022-23. The Committee also note that there was 'nil' enrolment of handloom workers under PMJJBY/PMSBY and converged MGBBY in 2020-21 following the transition to full payment regime w.e.f. 01.04.2020. As stated by the Ministry, due to increase in share of contribution of State Government/Beneficiary under PMJJBY and PMSBY, lesser enrolment was observed in Several States. The Ministry also stated that only 3 States i.e. Karnataka, Kerala and Sikkim are contributing premium share under PMJJBY. The Committee note that discontinuation of premium share of Rs. 100 under Social Security Fund w.e.f. 01.04.2020 with consequent increase in contribution of State Governments/beneficiary is the primary reason for decline in enrolment under PMJJBY and PMSBY. The Committee also find that only 03 States are presently contributing premium share under PMJJBY. As

informed by the representative of the Ministry during evidence, despite taking up the matter with the State Governments on numerous occasions, the States have not been contributing their share. As the outcome of the Schemes is not upto the desired level, the Committee would exhort the Ministry to strengthen their monitoring and coordination mechanism and continue to pursue the matter with the State Governments so that the intended social security benefits are made available to the beneficiaries. Such modifications, as may be appropriate may also be considered for being carried out in the Schemes so as to ensure their viability in providing social security benefits.

(Reply of Government)

(a) Handlooms: For monitoring and coordination mechanism, the office of DC(Handloom) has written on 24.05.2023 to Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, In-charge of Handlooms of all States/UTs Government to personally intervene in the matter towards implementation of scheme components (PMJJBY, PMSBY, Financial support to Awardee weavers and Scholarship to weavers' children) in 100% saturation mode and to ensure that awareness camps are organized in coordination with the field offices of this office and banks in all handloom pockets in their respective State/UT.

Also, a letter dated 16.06.2023 has been sent to all field offices of this office to take expeditious steps to achieve the targets assigned for improving the performance of the welfare schemes which will, in turn, encourage the livelihood of handloom weavers/workers.

(b) Handicrafts: The suggestions of the committee for modification in the scheme so as to ensure their viability in providing social security benefits has been noted for compliance and would be placed before the EFC committee at the time of revision of scheme.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para Nos. 8-9 of Chapter I.

(Recommendation Para No. 2)

The Committee are appreciative of the fact that a new initiative was introduced in October, 2021 under which, scholarship upto Rs.2.00 lakh per annum is provided to handloom worker's children (upto 2 children) for pursuing Diploma/Under Graduate/Post Graduate courses from recognized Textiles Institutions. The Committee, however, find that only 45 applicants

have been sanctioned the scholarship till date. The Ministry have reportedly taken steps to enhance the number of beneficiaries through awareness camps/chaupals besides conducting review meetings with State Governments and seeking details of weavers/workers' children studying in Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTs) and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). As admitted by the Ministry, for effective implementation of the initiative, more coordination and cooperation from State Governments at District/ Block level is required. While taking note of the efforts, the Committee urge upon the Ministry to strengthen the coordination and monitoring mechanism and vigorously pursue the State Governments to spread awareness about the scheme at the grass root level and motivate the eligible Handloom workers at the village level/most rural/backward areas to avail the facility so that the targeted persons are actually benefitted. The Committee also emphasize that periodical reviews of such exercise be undertaken so that the laudable intent of providing scholarships to the eligible children is well served. The Committee further desire that the possibility of introducing a scholarship scheme for handicraft workers' children on lines similar to the Scheme already in place for children of the handloom workers be considered.

(Reply of Government)

(a) Handlooms:For monitoring and coordination mechanism, the office of DC(HL) has written to Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, In-charge of Handlooms of all States/UTs Government to personally intervene in the matter towards implementation of scheme components (PMJJBY, PMSBY, Financial support to Awardee weavers and Scholarship to weavers' children) in 100% saturation mode and to ensure that awareness camps are organized in coordination with the field offices of this office and banks in all handloom pockets in their respective State/UT.

Also, a letter dated 16.06.2023 has been sent to all field offices of this office to take expeditious steps to achieve the targets assigned for improving the performance of the welfare schemes which will, in turn, encourage the livelihood of handloom weavers/workers.

(b) Handicrafts: The suggestion of the committee for possibility of introducing scholarship scheme for handicraft artisan's children to ensure their viability for providing benefits to the artisans has been noted for compliance and would be places before the EFC committee at the time of revision of scheme.
(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para Nos. 8-9 of Chapter I.

(Recommendation Para No. 3)

The Committee note that since 2019-20, 48,124 Handloom weavers/Handloom Organizations have been sanctioned concessional credit under the Mudra Loan Scheme with the total amount of credit extended being Rs. 275.31 crore. On the other hand, only Rs. 4.25 crore of credit has been sanctioned to 825 handicraft artisans during the period. Thus, there is a huge variation in the number of beneficiaries and, consequently, the amount of loan sanctioned in handloom sector vis-à-vis handicraft sector, thereby implying that the weavers and artisans are not getting at par benefits of the Scheme. The Committee note in this regard that an evaluation study conducted during 2019-20 inter-alia indicates that the reasons for less number of loans extended to artisans include inter-alia disinterest of the Bank Branch concerned (47%), insufficiency of loan related documents (29%) and inadequacies in Project report (16%). More significantly, the Committee note that absence of the facility of extending Mudra Loans to the handicraft organizations i.e. Producer Companies is a major factor for fewer loans being extended to the handicraft sector. As informed by the Ministry, efforts are underway for extending the facility of Mudra Loans to artisan Producer Companies, in which the artisans will be the stakeholders and verification of the company by the State Government concerned would be necessary. As per the assurance given, the Committee expect that appropriate action would be taken urgently by the Ministry/DC (Handicrafts) for providing the benefits of Margin Money Assistance etc. to producer companies in the handicraft sector in a manner similar to the companies in the handloom sector. This would translate into contributing to the development of the handicraft sector.

(Reply of Government)

The suggestions of the committee for extending MUDRA loan to the handicraft's organizations i.e. Producer Companies in the line of weavers of Handloom organizations has been noted and action in this regard has been initiated.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

(Recommendation Para No. 4)

The Committee are also constrained to note that there has been a steady decline in the number of Mudra Loans extended in the last few years i.e. 2019-20 onwards. Also, there has been a decline in margin money claims (22353 in 2019-20 to 8397 in 2022-23), as also credit guarantee and interest subsidy which clearly indicate that the scheme has not yielded the desired results. Decrease in the number of loans granted, being a matter of concern, the Committee would impress upon the Ministry to act in unison with State Governments, Ministry of Finance and Banks including Private, Co-operative and Gramin Banks so that the procedural rigmaroles are addressed expeditiously and the financial benefits of the scheme are extended to the weavers/artisans. The Committee also feel that it would be appropriate to fix annual targets for the banks to cover a specific number of weavers/artisans under the Mudra Loan Scheme. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken in this regard. Further, the Committee also desire to be apprised of the progress of the proposals for running a special drive for Mudra loans in coordination with State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) and District Level Bankers Committee (DLBC). The Committee also feel it to be appropriate on the part of the Ministry to carry out an assessment of the Mudra Loan scheme in promoting entrepreneurship amongst handloom weavers/ handicraft artisans.

(Reply of Government)

(a) Handlooms: The following remedial steps taken with Chairman/CEO/MD/President of all Banks including Private/Cooperative/Gramin Banks to extend the scheme benefits to maximum number of handloom weavers and to improve the scheme performance:-

- Bank branches should be sensitized about the scheme.
- Bank branches should be asked to register on the portal.
- Once Bank branches are registered on the portal, they should ensure to lodge the claims in respect of margin money assistance, interest subsidy and credit guarantee fee through the portal.
- Expeditious sanction/disbursement of loan to the handloom weavers.
- Make aware the participating banks to sanction fresh loan to the handloom weavers, who availed the loan in past and have re-paid.
- For resolving any issues faced to lodge the claims on Portal, details of concerned PNB Officials have been shared to all banks.

Annual targets have been assigned to WSCs to enhance the number of loan beneficiaries under Concessional Credit/Weaver MUDRA Scheme and directed

to take expeditious steps to achieve the targets for improving the performance of the scheme which will encourage the livelihood of handloom weavers/workers.

(b) Handicrafts: Noted for compliance. All the field offices have been issued an order to forward the applications to the Banks for sanction of Mudra Loan and Margin money to handicrafts artisans. The applications of handicrafts artisans for sanction of Mudra Loan are being collected by organizing the Chaupals / Shivirs /Camps in the craft clusters by inviting the representative of the Banks.

The Regional Offices and Headquarters office would monitor the progress made in this regard regularly and well as issues would be discussed in the State Level Bankers (SLBC) and District Level Bankers Committee (DLBC). The progress would be apprised to the Committee in due course of time.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

(Recommendation Para No. 5)

The Committee note that a centralized online claim disbursement system "Handloom Weavers Mudra portal" has been developed in association with the Nodal bank viz. Punjab national bank (PNB), which separately captures the data on loans sanctioned to weavers and artisans. However, the portal does not capture data on the loan amount disbursed owing to which the Ministry has taken up the matter of re-customizing the portal with the Bank. The Committee impress upon the Ministry on the need for ensuring that the re-customization is completed in a time bound manner so that the data on disbursements etc. is comprehensively made available on the portal. The Committee wish to be apprised of the progress in this regard.

(Reply of Government)

Feature for capturing the disbursement data has been incorporated in the Handloom Weaver MUDRA Portal in August, 2023. So far, disbursement data is not available on the portal.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para No. 12 of Chapter I.

(Recommendation Para No. 6)

The Committee note that the Ministry has launched an e-portal viz. indiahandmade.com, where the producers, sellers, producer companies, etc. can directly upload products and the expenditure on shipping bills, shipments, documents, taking photographs, etc. is borne by the Ministry. The Committee further note that weavers are facilitated to sell their products on-line for which 23 e-commerce platforms have been associated and 1.50 lakh weavers have been registered on Government e-Market Place (GeM). Further, the Ministry is continuously on boarding the artisans on GeM portal/e-commerce platforms. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry to create an intermediary-free marketing space for the handicraft artisans. In view of the large scale use of online platforms by sellers/buyers for selling/purchasing various products, especially after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the steps taken by the Ministry would immensely help weavers/artisans by way of providing them a marketing platform, which will make their presence felt at global level besides, eliminating the intermediaries and thereby resulting in increasing income levels and ensuring them a better livelihood. The Committee impress upon the Ministry to continue their efforts, spread awareness and ensure that education/training is provided to the beneficiaries especially the illiterate and untrained workers in the remote rural areas so that they are not deprived of the benefits of ecommerce platforms in the changing marketing scenario of on-line transactions. Further, as not many workers have been registered on GeM, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to take immediate steps to intensify their efforts to substantially increase the number of weavers/artisans on e-commerce platforms without compromising with the marketing events held across the country in rural and urban areas. Also, simultaneously, the Government Departments/Organizations need to be encouraged to make use of handloom/handicraft products available on GeM Portal.

(Reply of Government)

(a) Handlooms: In order to provide e-marketing platform to weavers & artisans, continues efforts are being made to on-board them on e-commerce platforms to sell their products directly to consumers including Government Departments/Organizations, eliminating the intermediaries and to grab better income & livelihood. 26 need based virtual training sessions were conducted for weavers & artisans with Weavers Service Centres (WSCs) & Handicrafts Service Centres (HSCs) after the launch of India Handmade Portal on on-boarding, uploading their products, orders processing etc. These training

sessions have been well-received by our weavers & artisans and witnessed significant improvements in their skills, confidence, and business acumen.

Further, additional sessions have been planned to on-board more weavers & artisans on e-commerce platform. These sessions will have focus on specialized topics such as correct pricing, taxation, GST compliance etc. Also, regular marketing events are being organized across the country to sell their products directly to consumers.

(b) Handicrafts: Efforts are being made to provide training for e-marketing in live interactive video sessions & seminar making those videos available as reference videos in multilingual formats to the artisans/weavers. The various field officers are also trained to provide handholding support to artisans/weavers. Measures to create awareness amongst artisans/weavers about e-commerce platforms offered by the Ministry of Textiles is being done by participating in various fairs, Haats etc, to interact directly with the artisans/weavers. A collaborative effort is being made by Gem & Ministry of Textiles on-board more artisans/weavers by data sharing & coordinated awareness campaigns.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

(Recommendation Para No. 7)

The Committee note that Identity Cards known as Pahchan Cards are issued to the handloom weavers/handicrafts artisans which entitle them to avail benefits of various schemes run by the Ministry. As on 04.06.2023, out of 35.22 lakh handloom workers, comprising 26.73 lakh weavers and 8.49 lakh allied workers, Pahchan cards have been issued only to 17.15 lakh workers and the remaining 18.07 lakh workers (more than 50%) are yet to be issued Pahchan cards. The situation is, however, better in the case of handicraft artisans as out of 30 lakh identified artisans, 26.72 lakh artisans have been issued Pahchan Cards. Thus, a sizeable number of weavers/artisans are yet to be issued Pahchan Cards. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Ministry to chalk out a robust mechanism to identify the causes behind non-issuance of Pahchan Cards to all the eligible Handloom weavers/handicraft artisans and expedite the procedure of issuing the Cards to all the eligible weavers/artisans so that they can avail the benefits of all social security and welfare schemes intended for them. The handloom weavers/handicraft artisans mostly belong to the socio-economically backward section of the society, and, may require financial assistance on an urgent basis mainly on account of the fact that their products are painstakingly time-consuming to produce and there is a long gestation period before income is generated. During the process of

manufacturing, there is no income generated to support their livelihood. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to explore the possibility of issuing a 'credit card' to the artisans on lines similar to Kisan Credit Card so that these artisans can also derive the benefit of some form of financial assistance under indigent circumstances.

(Reply of Government)

(a) Handlooms: 17.38 lakh Pahchan cards have been issued to eligible handloom workers as on 10.09.2023. Details of Pahchan cards of all handloom workers of 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20 are accessible from website of this office i.e. www.handlooms.nic.in as below:-

<https://tricorniotec.com/webapp/portal>

User ID:- ministry

Password:- ministry@ 2022

Handloom workers may avail the benefits of handloom schemes, implemented by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India for procurement of raw materials, common infrastructure development, skilling, marketing of handloom products in domestic/overseas markets, concessional credit etc.

(b) Handicrafts: The mobilization of handicrafts artisans across the country is regular process of the Handicrafts Service Centre by organizing Chaupals /Shivirs/ Craft Awareness programme for issuance of PAHCHAN card to handicrafts artisans. The handicrafts artisans enrolled under PAHCHAN would be eligible for all the benefit of the scheme implemented for promotion and development of handicrafts sector. These artisans can also avail the interest subsidy and margin money on MUDRA loan amount. However, the suggestions of the committee to issuance of Credit card has been noted similar to Kisan Credit card and would be placed before the Committee at the time of revision of EFC for their consideration.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para Nos. 15-16 of Chapter I.

(Recommendation Para No. 8)

The Committee note that another new initiative was taken in October, 2021, under which pension of Rs.8,000 per month is granted to awardee weavers/artisans above 60 years of age, in indigent circumstances and having annual income below Rs.1 lakh. The Committee were apprised that the amount of pension for handicraft awardees was recently increased from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 8,000. The Committee, in this regard, note that the ceiling of income at Rs.1

lakh per annum as the criterion for awarding this pension which translates to less than the per day minimum wages restricts the entitled beneficiaries to a bare minimum. The representative of the Ministry, during evidence, also admitted that the Scheme has eventually benefitted only such awardees whose income is less than the per day minimum wages. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends reviewing the ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh per annum and raise it to a reasonable amount so that more persons avail the benefits of this Scheme which provides old age protection. The Committee further note that in 2022-23, in the handloom sector, 80 handloom awardees were benefitted whereas in the handicrafts sector, 339 handicraft awardees were benefitted. As informed by the Ministry, one of the reasons for selection of low number of beneficiaries is the dearth of awareness. While taking note of the measures initiated by the Ministry to address the issue, the Committee desires the Ministry to put in extra efforts to create awareness in the rural and backward areas of the country through print, electronic and social media and also make concerted efforts with the State Governments through the Chaupals organized at village/block level.

(Reply of Government)

(a) Handlooms: Review for enhancement of annual income ceiling of Rs.1.00 lakh per awardee has been noted for further consideration.

This office has written a D.O. letter to Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, In-charge of Handlooms of all States/UTs Government to personally intervene in the matter towards implementation of scheme components (PMJJBY, PMSBY, Financial support to Awardee weavers and Scholarship to weavers' children) in 100% saturation mode and to ensure that awareness camps are organized in coordination with the field offices of this office and banks in all handloom pockets in their respective State/UT.

Also, a letter dated 16.06.2023 has been sent to all field offices of this office to take expeditious steps to achieve the targets assigned for improving the performance of the welfare schemes.

(b) Handicrafts: The suggestion of the Committee has been noted for its compliance at the time for forming the EFC. To cover a greater number of artisans under the component of Financial support to artisans in indigent circumstances, wide publicity would be made through leading newspaper /social media/village /block level as well as by organizing the camps in the craft cluster pockets/DICs/State Handicrafts Development Corporations.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para No. 19 of Chapter I.

(Recommendation Para No. 9)

The Committee note that at present 72 crafts have been included in the list of recognized crafts. The Ministry have also identified 35 crafts as endangered category. The Committee further note that preference is given to promote and preserve such endangered crafts. Also, the benefits of various schemes, including imparting skill training are provided to new entrants besides encouraging them to practice these crafts and thereby increase the number of artisans. In addition, assistance under the marketing scheme is also provided to them for participation in various marketing events organized by the Ministry of Textiles and other Ministries. The Committee believe that there may be more such traditional handicrafts being produced in the interior/rural/hinterland areas of the country, like Bell Metal handicrafts of Odisha, which have heritage value and the requisite 'skill sets' are passed on from generation to generation. These may be on the brink of extinction due to lack of resources or related reasons. The Committee feel that these crafts/arts, which are a reflection of carefully preserved culture and tradition of the country, need to be identified and given due recognition. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Ministry to undertake a comprehensive exercise to review and update the recognized crafts, identify the 'dying arts' and include them in the endangered category so that the benefits of various schemes run by the Ministry are provided to the handicraft workers.

(Reply of Government)

Various studies and surveys are being conducted related to craft under the National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP), wherein the historical and cultural significance, tradition, making process, socio-economic condition of craftsmen etc. are thoroughly explained.

In connection with tradition handicrafts of rural interior area studies & survey are being carried out time to time. For the Bell metal handicraft of Odisha, A study on "definition of craft languishing, its survey and Identification of craft" has been conducted in the past year where 35 endangered crafts were identified and included in the list in which copper snake of Odisha has been identified as Languishing/Endangered craft as per the criteria defined.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

(Recommendation Para No. 10)

The Committee note that the challenges faced in the unorganized Powerloom Sector which is the largest in the world include inter-alia outdated technology, inadequate capital for modernization and working capital, lack of vertical integration, fluctuating raw material prices, etc. As per Nielson Survey 2012-13, there are 24.86 lakh powerlooms in the country employing 45 lakh workers, who include a large number of women employees; and data regarding number of powerloom owners is not being maintained by the Ministry. The Committee understand that with a view to ensuring holistic development of the entire Powerloom Sector, the Ministry is in an advanced stage of conducting a fresh base line survey so that actual gaps of the sector are identified, on the basis of which a new scheme would be proposed for capacity building of the workers of Powerloom Sector.

(Reply of Government)

In order to ensure holistic development of the entire Powerloom Sector, the Ministry is in an advanced stage of finalizing for conducting a fresh base-line survey on Powerloom sector so that actual gaps of the sector are identified. Ministry has assigned Textiles Committee to conduct fresh baseline Powerloom survey. Thereafter, on the basis of the report, a new scheme would be proposed for capacity building of the workers of Powerloom Sector.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

(Recommendation Para No. 11)

The Committee are of the view that the steps taken by the Ministry, although after a gap of more than 10 years, are in right direction and hope that in addition to updating the data base of workers in Powerloom Sector, the exercise will also help in addressing the challenges being faced in the Sector. The Committee trust that the data regarding number and locations of plain powerloom owners will also be collected during the survey. The Committee would like to be kept apprised of the progress of the survey and formulation and implementation of policy measures for capacity building of the workers of the Powerloom Sector. Conversion of Plain Powerlooms into Automatic Powerloom.

(Reply of Government)

The data regarding number and locations of plain powerloom owners will also be collected during the survey. The Committee would be kept apprised of

the progress of the survey exercise and formulation and implementation of policy measures for capacity building of the workers of the Powerloom Sector.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

(Recommendation Para No. 13)

The Committee observes that under the umbrella scheme of Textile Cluster Development Scheme (TCDS), outlay under the head 'In-situ upgradation of Plain Powerlooms' is only Rs. 1.90 crore during the year. As most of the plain Powerlooms require immediate upgradation along with other infrastructural support, the Committee recommends that the Ministry re-visit the modalities of the Scheme inter-alia with a view to improving the scheme and obtaining additional funds that would be required for upgradation of Plain Powerlooms.

(Reply of Government)

The fund allocated by Department of Expenditure for In-situ upgradation scheme for Plain Powerloom (Rs.1.90 cr) has already been paid to the eligible beneficiaries. Committee's suggestions have been duly noted and Ministry will take appropriate action.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

(Recommendation Para No. 15)

The Committee note that presently the work relating to fibre, yarn, processing of cloth, printing, garmenting, etc. is spread over various places across the country. The Committee have been apprised that lack of integration decreases competitiveness and also minimizes diversification, which has direct impact on the cost of product thereby resulting in import of cheaper cloths. The Committee are of the considered opinion that establishment of PM-MITRA Parks would take care of the issue of lack of vertical integration faced by Powerloom Sector. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to leave no stone unturned to expedite the process of setting up the PM-MITRA Parks and make them functional at the earliest so as to transform Powerloom Sector from Unorganised to the Organised one in a phased manner and thereby enable in providing social security and ensuring the welfare of the workers as envisaged in the Code on Social Security, 2020.

(Reply of Government)

The Government has approved setting up of 7(seven) PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4445 crore for a period of seven years from 2021-22 to 2027-28.

The Government has finalised 7 sites viz. Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navsari), Karnataka (Kalaburagi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and Maharashtra (Amravati) for setting up PM MITRA Parks.

The Ministry is in touch with PM MITRA States and regularly taking the matter with State Government and wherever necessary, the matter is being taken at highest level of State Government. The Ministry has executed MOA with all the States and process of formation of SPV in all 7 states are undergoing. It is expected that formation of SPV will be completed shortly. Some of PM MITRA states has already started work towards trunk infrastructure and also allotted plots to investors.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

CHAPTER-III

**OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY**

NIL

CHAPTER-IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

(Recommendation Para No. 14)

The Committee observe that the Powerloom Sector has a large number of workforce of women. As most of the work in Powerloom Sector is being undertaken by the women workers, it becomes obligatory on the part of the Ministry to pay special attention to the needs of the female workers and day-to-day problems/challenges being faced by them so as to ensure that remedial steps are taken to provide them basic amenities viz. restrooms, separate wash areas, crèche facilities besides healthcare facilities, etc. Further, as around 90% of all major looms installed are concentrated mainly in four States viz. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to make concerted efforts with these States to conduct field visits to the powerloom clusters so as to have a realistic idea of the problems being faced by women workers and take corrective or remedial measures. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within two months of presentation of this Report to Parliament.

(Reply of Government)

Once the baseline survey on Powerloom sector is completed, while formulating new policy/ scheme for Powerloom sector, the observations made by the Committee would be looked into.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para No. 25 of Chapter I.

(Recommendation Para No. 16)

The Committee note that the Jute Sector provides direct employment to 40 lakh farm families, 2 lakh workers in organized mills, 2 lakh in value added diversification activities and 3 lakh in tertiary and allied sectors. In addition, there are a large number of persons engaged in the trade of jute. The Committee note that the Ministry had, in the year 2014/2015, conducted a study through National Jute Board (NJB) on 'Occupational Health of the Workers in the Jute producing units in India' with an objective to assess the impact of occupational hazards on the health of the workers of Jute Mill/Industry and to develop the baseline data on the probable health hazards due to work environment and to arrive at an index value representing the

overall health of workers in Jute Mills. The final report which inter-alia suggested extending Provident Fund and maternity benefits for female workers, was forwarded by NJB to Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) for dissemination among the Jute Mills and taking necessary action. The Ministry, after the perusal of Annual Reports of some jute mills and following up with IJMA, have merely stated that permanent workers are provided with Provident Fund and ESIC benefits as also maternity benefits by the jute mills. From the information made available, the Committee cannot help noting that the approach of the Ministry has been lukewarm in taking positive action on the findings and observations of the study which is of importance from the view point of health of the jute workers. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Textiles, being the nodal agency for safeguarding the overall interest of jute workers, should make concerted efforts and ensure that all jute mills implement the recommendations on social security measures so as to improve overall health condition of jute workers irrespective of the nature of their employment viz. permanent or temporary. This would be in tune with the provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020 and The Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

(Reply of Government)

Action taken report on the observation taken by Jute Mills on Welfare Scheme and Social Security Measures are given below:

- Introduction of face mask to workers working in Jute selection department.
- Installation of high power dust extraction & collection system in Spreader machine which restricts dust particles to mix in breathable air.
- Reduction of Noise level by introducing shuttle less looms 8s putting covers in all machines.
- Reducing accidents by putting covers in all machines.
- Replacing old Tube lights by LED in the production area which has increased illumination & thus better visibility.
- IJIRA has introduced Protective Gloves which are being used.
- Introduction of Sprinklers in Drawing, Spinning & Weaving department, has restricted fibre dust mix with air.
- Introduction of Fork Lift in transportation of heavy bales, has reduced loads on workers.
- Introduction of Shuttle-less loom connected with Warp Winding Machine, has replaced manually operated Cop winding machine for weaving Hessian and Sacking cloth fabric.
- Making of multiple Hygienic sanitation units for workers.
- Workers quarters have been renovated for healthy living.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para No. 28 of Chapter I.

CHAPTER-V
OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF
THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE
(Recommendation Para No. 12)

The Committee has been apprised that most of the powerlooms are plain powerlooms with outdated technology, which need to be upgraded into automatic looms for improving the quality and quantity of the fabric. The major constraint faced on this aspect is, dearth of working capital with the powerloom workers, as a consequence of which, there is lack of raw material and consequently they are compelled to take up other jobs. The Committee believe that this is a vicious circle in which one event is leading to another and recommend the Ministry to chalk out an infallible strategy to overcome these challenges. The Committee desire that a fresh scheme may be formulated for providing low cost financial assistance and credit facility especially to Powerloom workers for upgrading their looms and also provide adequate support to acquire raw materials besides providing market linkages through development of e-Portal on the lines of the portal developed for Handloom Weavers/Handicraft Workers. The Committee also desire the Ministry to set up a mechanism to sensitize and instruct the powerloom workers regarding procedure of upgradation of plain looms into the shuttleless/automatic looms and train them to operate them.

(Reply of Government)

The Ministry is in an advanced stage for conducting a fresh base-line survey on Powerloom sector. In addition, it is considered to strengthen raw material availability support besides providing market linkages through development of e-Portal on the lines of the portal developed for Handloom Weavers/Handicraft Workers. To have traceability of support, a robust survey can help implement any focused /IT enabled verifiable initiatives from the Public resources, may be in partnership with State Governments. These can be feeders to sector as are the Mega Infra initiatives being done in partnership with state Governments.

(Ministry of Textile's OM No.2/24/2023-Parl., dated 26/10/2023)

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para No. 22 of Chapter I.

New Delhi;
05 February, 2024
16 Magha, 1945 (Saka)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR,
TEXTILES AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

(Vide Para No. 3 of the Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON OBSERVATIONS/
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIFTIETH REPORT (SEVENTEENTH
LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND SKILL
DEVELOPMENT**

| | Total | Percentage |
|--|--------------|-------------------|
| I. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government – Rec. Para Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 15 | 13 | 81.25% |
| II. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government’s reply – Nil | 00 | 00% |
| III. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration – Rec. Para Nos. 14 and 16 | 02 | 12.50% |
| IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature - Rec. Para No. 12 | 01 | 06.25% |
| | | 100% |