

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 21, 1997/Phalgun 30, 1918 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Three Minute Past
Eleven of the Clock.*

[SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Production of Handloom Textiles

*381. SHRI SOHAN BEER :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the handloom textiles produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) financial assistance provided by the Government under various schemes for the development of handloom industry during the above mentioned period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the welfare of the handloom weavers and to promote handloom industry in the country particularly in the backward areas of Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The estimated production of cloth in the Handloom Sector in the country, during the last three years has been as under :-

Year	Cloth Production in the Handloom Sector (Mn.Sq. MTR.)
1993-94	5851
1994-95	6180
1995-96	7202

Figures of production of cloth in the handloom sector are not maintained State-wise.

(b) The details of financial assistance provided to States under various schemes during the last three years are as under :-

		(Rs. in lakhs)
Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds released. 1993-94 to 95-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8027.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	91.50
3.	Assam	4339.17
4.	Bihar	1918.10
5.	Goa	93.01
6.	Gujarat	862.68
7.	Haryana	224.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	435.24
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	433.02
10.	Karnataka	4485.73
11.	Kerala	3031.32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2021.63
13.	Meghalaya	17.81
14.	Maharashtra	3443.78
15.	Manipur	1343.87
16.	Mizoram	58.97
17.	Nagaland	127.32
18.	Orissa	4859.66
19.	Pondicherry	126.37
20.	Punjab	137.57
21.	Rajasthan	1274.41
22.	Sikkim	3.04
23.	Tamil Nadu	13765.28
24.	Tripura	700.88
25.	Uttar Pradesh	7405.76
26.	West Bengal	6002.08
Total		65230.30

(c) Government of India has taken various steps for the welfare of handloom weavers and for promotion/

development of handloom industry in the country. It has been implementing following schemes for handloom industry in the country, including backward areas of Uttar Pradesh

- (a) Welfare Package Scheme (Thrift fund, Group Insurance & Health Package Schemes).
- (b) Scheme for grant of Margin Money to Destitute Weavers.
- (c) Grants for Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for Handloom Weavers.
- (d) Handloom Development Centre and Quality Dyeing units.
- (e) Project Package Scheme.
- (f) Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme.
- (g) Export Development Scheme.
- (i) National Silk Yarn Bank.
- (j) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (k) Janata Cloth Scheme.
- (l) Market Development Assistance Scheme.
- (m) Setting up Marketing Complexes by NHDC.
- (n) National Handloom Expos/Mini Expo/District Level Fairs.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state the amount of financial assistance given to the state of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, for the last three years, an amount of Rs. 74.5 crore has been given.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN BEER : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know, through you, whether any steps were taken by the Government for the welfare of weavers in the backward areas of Uttar Pradesh in order to give a boost to the handloom industry or the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, the State Government are expected to formulate the schemes and send them to the

Central Government. Whatever schemes they have sent, we have approved them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : (a) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the elder handloom weavers only get the benefit of training, because small weavers are not at all selected for training. What steps the Government propose to take in this regard ? (b) the total handloom clothes manufactured during the year 1995-96 vis-a-vis 1996-97 separately and the position of Uttar Pradesh thereto (c) I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Textiles that the conditions of weavers in Uttar Pradesh is very deplorable. As such, will more funds be provided to Uttar Pradesh so that the lot of the workers could be improved.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, as far as training is concerned, it is meant for both the rich weavers as well as the poor weavers. So, there is no question of differentiating between the rich and poor weavers.

Secondly, in 1994-95, the total handloom cloth manufactured was 6,180 million square metres. In 1995-96, it was 7,200 million square metres.

As far as taking up special schemes is concerned, I have already submitted to this House that whatever scheme is formulated by the State Government and sent to the Central Government, we approve it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, both *khadi* and handloom products are sold on the basis of subsidy. There are certain months in the course of a year when such subsidies are given. I want to know whether it is true that in the course of each of the last three years, the subsidy given to handlooms has not increased even in nominal terms and in fact, has decreased in real terms.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : As far as *janata* quality cloth is concerned, it is being phased out year after year. As far as other subsidies are concerned, there is no reduction.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What are the figures ? I have asked whether the subsidy given to handloom sector in real terms has come down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you have the figures

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Yes. The marketing development assistance in 1993-94 . . .

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am asking about subsidy to the handloom sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is asking about subsidy to handlooms.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : That is why, I am replying.

In 1993-94, the total subsidy given was Rs. 218 crore. In 1994-95, it was Rs. 235 crore. In 1995-96, it was Rs. 200 crore.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It means it has decreased.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : It has decreased because there was no demand. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : There were no demands. That is why, it has decreased.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken up any survey about the handlooms in the country. If at all it has been taken up, I want to know in how many States it has been completed, in how many States it is still going on, and in how many States and loomage has increased or decreased.

While reduction has taken place in the loomage, can the Government tell us as to what are the adverse factors forcing the loom workers to close down the looms ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, except in five States the survey has been completed. If he wants Statewise figures I am prepared to give him. The survey was conducted in Andhra Pradesh in 1987-88. In 1987-88 the loomage was 2,19,715. Now there is a reduction of 3 per cent in the loomage and number of weavers have reduced by 33 per cent. In Bihar, the loomage was 82,657.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you require all these details ?

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, I would like to know the figures at least about Karnataka.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : In Karnataka, the loomage was 81,585 in 1987-88 and now there is a decrease by 12 per cent in the loomage.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, I want to know what are the measures that were taken by the Minister to prevent this reduction and what are the adverse factors.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The reason is, in many areas the handloom weavers are shifting to powerloom sector, because they are not getting sufficient remuneration and also we are phasing out the Janata cloth. That is why, we are encouraging these people to go in for the production of value-added products now. We are giving all the help they require and we will see that these people take up to handloom weaving and get more and more remuneration.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the conditions of handloom weavers and workers in the handloom industry is very bad in the whole country. They do not get food for two times in a day. The subsidy being given to them under the central scheme is not adequate. It is very meagre. In Maharashtra the Maharashtra Handloom Corporation was set up under a central scheme. Subsidy was given to the corporation by the Central Government. The Handloom Workers fought their cause in the High Court as well as the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave its decision. The hon. Minister should pay attention to point that despite the decision of the Supreme Court that the handloom workers should be treated at par with the industrial workers, facilities available to industrial workers have not so far be provided to handloom workers. The Maharashtra Handloom Corporation is functioning under a scheme of the Central Government. My specific question is as to the time by which the Government would take steps to implement the decision of the Supreme Court and the time by which they will be provided all those facilities that are available to industrial workers ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I am sorry, I donot know anything about the Supreme Court judgement and I will find out the position.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I am telling that there is a Supreme Court judgement. I am a responsible Member of Parliament.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I did not say that he is not correct..

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not aware of the judgement. He will find out and let you know.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I should also look into the judgement because I do not know as to what is mentioned there. Secondly, this is an unorganised sector, this is not an organised sector. Everybody has got only one or two looms and that is why, it will be very difficult for us to enforce this Act.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Sir, my question is specific and I want your protection.

[Translation]

Here the question is about implementing the decisions of the Supreme Court. I want to know whether the decision of the Supreme Court will be implemented or not ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister said that he does not know about the decision of the Supreme Court. He will ascertain facts and tell you.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : We will look into it. We are prepared to implement it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He says that he would look into the matter to what was the decision and what was the judgement about.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There can be no denying the fact that the present Government is bent upon ruining handloom sector. In the last Budget the allocation for this sector was Rs. 262 crore, but the revised Budget was finalised at Rs. 195 crore. In this year's Budget the total allocation for the entire handloom sector is Rs. 203 crore. While last year's allocation was Rs. 262 crore, this year a provision of Rs. 203 crore has been made. We know that this amount of Rs. 203 crore is not likely to be received. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the allocation to this sector is getting reduced year after year. I would like to know as to what steps are being taken by the Ministry of Textiles and the Finance Minister to raise it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a need to reach the items produced of the handloom sector in the market. Besides in order to remove the difficulties being experienced in marketing. Will the Central Government follow a policy to use handloom products in all its offices and enterprises and issue necessary instructions to the State Governments to follow sent ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, we can request the State Governments but I do not know how far they will comply with our request. I know that because of the phasing out of the Janata cloth, the budget is reducing by Rs. 3 to 4 crore every year. The intention of the Government is to phase out the Janata cloth.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister says that there has been a reduction of Rs. 3-4 crore. But I tell him that it has been reduced to the tune of Rs. 60 crore.

[English]

Rs. 60 crore is the reduction between last year's budget estimates and this year's budget estimates.

[Translation]

And he says that it is only Rs. 3-4 crore.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, if the demand from the concerned Government is genuine and the amount that is provided is insufficient, I will again request the Finance Minister to give us something more.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government have directed to State Governments particularly the Government of MP to reduce the Janata saree production by 50 per cent under the handloom production. Thousands of workers are likely to be rendered jobless as a fallout of the above directive. As such what the Government are thinking for providing jobs to weavers in the backdrop of orders to reduce production ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, in 1993-94, the target for producing Janata cloth was fixed at 370 million square metres, the production was 313 million square metres; in 1994-95, the target was 320 million square metres, the production was 217 million square; and in 1995-96, the target was 250 million square metres and the production was only 198.86 million square metres.

Sir, these figures will show that the production is not up to our expectation. They are not achieving the targets that are being given to them.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that a petition in connection with the condition of handloom weavers was submitted to the petition committee in the Rajya Sabha and in my capacity as the Chairman of that Committee. I submitted a detailed report in the House after visiting the houses of handloom weavers from Uttar Pradesh right upto Tamil Nadu and seeing their plights ? The entire action plan had been suggested in it. If the Government implement the suggestions, their lot can be improved. Even after a lapse of one year, the recommendation of the committee have not been implemented. I would, therefore, like to know the steps taken to act on the action plan and implement the recommendations.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I am sorry to say that I have not come across such a petition. I will ask my officials to get it. I have not seen it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : What is he saying.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is replying to that.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I am sorry to say that I have not seen this petition. It was not brought to my notice. I will get that report within three or four days, and I will write to you as to what action has been taken by the Government.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, yesterday, the Prime Minister said in the Rajya Sabha that the officers were not listening to him. This is the position. The Minister is simply saying that he does not know anything about these reports. How is this Government running ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government have been function is a very peculiar way. He has no knowledge of the Supreme Court judgement. The report of the Rajya Sabha committee is based on this point. How the recommendations of the committee can be implemented when the hon. Minister has no knowledge of it. How this Government is functioning. Almost one has elapsed since the report was submitted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give one more copy to him.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are taking it so lightly. The report of the whole House was laid as the Table of the House. Copy was sent to the department. As has been said by Shri George Fernandes, the report comprised information which included directives to State Governments to manufacture handloom clothes. Had the recommendations been implemented the lot of the handloom weavers would have been improved . . . (Interruptions) The hon. Minister says that he has no knowledge of it and he has not seen it. . . (Interruptions) Please take it seriously. You are saying that I should send one more copy. . . (Interruptions) This is not a matter between him and me. This is a matter between the entire House and the Government. . . (Interruptions) What is the style of functioning of this Government ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, this Committee was appointed by the previous Government. This report was given to the previous Government. So, I do not know about it. I have no idea about the said report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, when a Parliamentary Committee submits its report, action has to be taken by the Government on the recommendations.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, please tell the

Minister that Government is a continuous institution.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I am telling you that I have not seen that report. I have told you, Madam, that I will get that report within a week and I will look into that report. I will come back to you and tell you what are all the actions that have been taken and what are all the actions that are yet to be taken. I am not a computer and I cannot remember all these things. I do not know about it. It was given to the previous Government.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what should I expect from the Government ? Are the recommendations being implemented ? . . . (Interruptions) We thought that by this time he must have convened a meeting of the concerned officer and implemented the recommendations, but hon. Minister says that he has not even read the report. . . (Interruptions) You are not giving me protection. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJ BHAJI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not the way of functioning. . . (Interruptions)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, the Kota Saree is famous all over India. . . (Interruptions) All their weavers of dying of starvation. . . (Interruptions)

Simplification of Export Process.

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*382. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
Lt. GENERAL (Retd.) PRAKASH MANI
TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the Federation of Indian Export Organisations to make a study to suggest streamlining and simplification of policy and procedure in respect of exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the recommendations from the FIEO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

As part of Govt. Policy to continuously interact with Trade and Industry through Export Promotion Councils and