

Title: Need to supply adequate amount of yarn at reasonable price for the powerloom sector and to reduce electricity tariff on these factories.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, powerloom sector is the largest cloth manufacturing sector contributing about 57 per cent of the total cloth produced in the country excluding, of course, production by non-SSI weaving units. It contributes very significantly to the foreign exchange earnings. Sir, it generated employment for 40 lakh persons in 1998-99.

Today, this important industry is facing severe crisis. A large number of powerlooms in Bhivandi, Malegaon, Burhanpur and at various centres have closed down. They are facing the struggle of life and death. There is a need for the Government to come forward with certain immediate measures as also the long terms measures including adequate provision of yarn at most reasonable prices.

The question of availability of yarn at reasonable price is a serious question. The Government also should persuade the State Governments to reduce electricity tariff on these power looms. They are suffering on various counts and immediate measures are necessary.