CHAPTER IV

POWERLOOM

The decentralized powerloom sector plays a pivotal role in meeting the clothing needs of the country. Production of cloth as well as generation of employment have been rapidly increasing in the powerloom sector. During 2001-2002, the production of cloth in the decentralized powerloom sector was 25192 millions sq. mtrs., while employment generation was 4.19 million (Sept 2002). The corresponding figures estimated for 2002-2003 are 25,542 million sq. mtrs. and 4.23 million respectively. The powerloom industry produces a wide variety of cloth, both grey as well as processed with intricate designs. Its contribution to the total cloth production of the country was to the extent of 59.9% during 2001-2002. Powerloom fabrics also successfully compete in the global market and contribute significantly to the export earnings of the country. Therefore, to encourage new and incremental powerloom exports, the Government has earmarked a specific export quota of fabric and made-ups to quota countries covered by the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) for powerloom manufacturers since the year 1992. Starting with 3%, it was enhanced to 5% in the year 1993 and further to 10% in 1998. It is now enhanced to 15% for the years 2000-2004 vide Notification No.1/129/99-Export-I dated 12-11-1999.

GROWTH IN THE POWERLOOM SECTOR:

The estimated number of powerlooms in the decentralized sector in the country till 30th September, 2002 was 16.75 lakhs as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Powerlooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996-97</td>
<td>14,15,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>15,34,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>15,99,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>16,29,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>16,61,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>16,66,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>16,75,583</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(as on 30th Sept, 2002)

(Source: State Govts. & UTs)
PRESENT POLICY RELATING TO INSTALLATION OF POWERLOOMS:

In terms of the Textile (Development & Regulation) Order, 2001, every person on installing a powerloom should submit an Information Memorandum in a prescribed form to the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, within 30 days of installation provided that in case of installation of such machinery in the SSI Sector, a copy of such information memorandum shall also be filed to an officer notified in this behalf by the State Government. The fee for such action has been abolished and the system made simpler.

POWERLOOM SERVICE CENTRES:

There are 14 Powerloom Service Centers (PSCs’) functioning under the O/o the Textile Commissioner and 29 PSCs functioning under the different Textile Research Associations (TRAs) namely ATIRA, BTRA, MANTRA, NITRA, SASMIRA, IJIRA & SITRA. One PSC Jabalpur is also established under the administrative control of State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. Thus there are a total of 44 such centers.

PERFORMANCE OF POWERLOOM SERVICE CENTRES:

During the period April 2001 to Sept 2002 (18 months) the 44 PSCs trained 1705 persons, developed 3608 new designs and tested 58459 samples. During this period, PSCs have organized 183 numbers of exhibitions, seminars and workshops.

MODERNISATION AND STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING PSCs :

The powerlooms in the PSCs are very old and outdated and do not match the machinery requirements of the industry is the area. Naturally, weavers demand training on the latest looms and equipment and not on the existing machinery available with the PSCs. In many cases, training becomes highly theoretical, as the PSC is not able to give practical orientation and skills due to lack of modern machinery. Taking into consideration these ground realities, the expectations of the powerloom industry and the need for a thrust on technological upgradation if the industry, a Programme for Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centers was taken up. Government of India approved the Modernisation and Upgradation proposal for 21 PSCs (7 under TX.C and 14 under TRAs) during 9th Five Year Plan period with an estimated cost of Rs. 16.09 crore. Of this so far upto 31.08.2002, Rs. 1222.81 lakh has been allocated to the Textiles
Committee, appointed as Nodal Agency for the modernization programme, and Rs.1063.40 lakh have been utilized.

UPTO DATE PROGRESS OF LOOMSHED MODERNISATION:

- Under the aforesaid loomshed Modernization and Strengthening Programme, machinery supplies have been completed in all PSCs.
- Connected infrastructure work has been completed in all PSCs.
- In plant/on site training programme connected to supplied machinery/looms/equipments to the PSCs personnel are also completed.
- Imported machines have been installed and successfully commissioned, and training have been imparted to concerned staff.

The remaining PSCs are to be modernized in the Xth Plan. During the current year, 8 additional PSCs are proposed to be modernized with an estimated cost of Rs.400 lakhs.

UPGRADATION OF PSC LABORATORIES:

Ministry of Textiles also decided to upgrade the existing laboratories in the PSCs so that the decentralized powerloom sector entrepreneurs can get modern testing facilities close at hand. For this purpose, so far, the laboratory of 14 PSCs, at Erode, Surat, Burhanpur, Malegaon, Amritsar, Kishangarh and Belgaum, (under TXC) at Panipat, Bhilwara and Meerut (under NITRA), Ichalkaranji (under BTRA), Salem and Doddaballapur (under SITRA) and PSC Bhiwandi (under SASMIRA) have been upgraded and an amount of Rs. 1070.00 lakh spent.

A review of the Laboratory testing charges has since been done as
recommended by the Three Member Committee set up to review the organizational structure, management and functioning of the Powerloom Service Centers. Minimum testing charges have been fixed as 40%, 30% and 20% of the fees charged by the Textiles Committee for the respective test, for Grade-I, Grade-II & Grade-III PSCs respectively.

**COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN CENTRES:**
So far 17 Computer Aided Design Centre (CADC) at Coimbatore, Karur, Komarapalayam and Somanur (Tamil Nadu), Surat and Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Solapur, Ichalkaranji and Bhiwandi and Mumbai (Maharashtra), Bhilwara and Gaziabad (Rajasthan), Bangalore and Doddaballapur (Karnataka), Burhanpur and Indore (M.P.), and Panipat (Haryana) are established in the country. The Implementation Committee set up for modernisation and strengthening of the PSCs has been entrusted to study the feasibility of new centres as well as strengthening of existing centers.

**ALL INDIA POWERLOOM BOARD:**
The All-India Powerloom Board(AIPB) was first constituted as an Advisory Body in November 1981. This Board was reconstituted on 27-10-98 and again on 21-12-2000 for a period of two years. On expiration of the tenure of the AIPB constituted on 21/10/2000 the Govt. of India has again reconstituted the AIPB for a period of 2 years with effect from Feb.18,2003. The AIPB has representatives of the Central and State Govts. Powerloom Federation / Associations as its members and is headed by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles as the Chairman. The Union Secretary (Textiles) and the Textile Commissioner are the Vice Chairman and Member Secretary respectively.


**POWERLOOM WORKER’S WELFARE SCHEME:**
A revised Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) for Powerloom workers titled “PRIME MINISTER’S BUNKAR BHIMA YOJANA” has been prepared on the basis of consultations with State Govt. representatives and Insurance Companies as a part of welfare measures for Powerloom workers. On the advice of the AIPB, the earlier Workshed –Cum-Housing has also been recast to enable powerloom workers to set up their looms in group worksheds, or worksheds in industrial or apparel parks, thus separating work from living area, to aspire to better living and environmental conditions.