

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-479
ANSWERED ON- 09/12/2022

HANDLOOMS AND WEAVERS IN ASSAM

479. SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Assam has the highest concentration of handlooms and weavers in the country;
- (b) whether imported powerloom products are imitating the traditional motifs and designs such as the Gamosa of Assam which hurts the weavers; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to protect handloom workers and weavers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH)

(a) to (c): As per 4th handloom census (2019-20), Assam has the highest concentration of handloom weavers i.e., 12,83,881 handloom weavers and allied workers.

Some instances of powerloom products imitating traditional hand-woven products have been reported. To protect the interest of handloom workers, Government of India has promulgated Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. 11 textiles articles with some technical specifications are exclusively reserved for production on handlooms. Powerloom inspections are carried out in field formations by respective State Handloom Departments and field officers of the Central Government for enforcing the provisions of the Act.
