

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2393
ANSWERED ON- 19/12/2025

PROBLEMS OF POWERLOOM SECTOR

2393 SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether powerloom sector is facing a crisis with many looms being dismantled and sold as scrap;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of functional powerloom units in the country;
- (c) the impact of recently hiked global tariffs on this sector;
- (d) whether Government proposes to reduce GST rate on manmade viscose, polyester and synthetic yarn;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to tackle the infrastructural, economic and technological problems for the survival of this sector with reasonable growth and development?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) & (b): The last baseline survey for powerlooms, conducted in 2013, revealed the existence of approximately 24 lakh powerlooms, supporting a workforce of around 44 lakh individuals across the country. The State wise details of the number of Powerlooms and manpower as per the last baseline survey is enclosed as Annexure. In order to ensure an assessment of latest market dynamics, technology levels, and socio economic aspects of the workers associated with the powerloom sector, the Textiles Committee under Ministry of Textiles has prepared a framework for baseline survey of Powerloom sector. The terms of reference of the study have been finalized and in-principle approval accorded.

(c): A combination of different factors such as product differentiation, demand, quality, contractual arrangements etc. determine the impact of global tariffs on India's exports of textiles sector including powerloom exports. The Government is regularly monitoring India's exports of Textile & Apparel including powerloom exports and tracking of the impact of tariffs.

(d) & (e): In the 56th meeting of the GST Council held on 3rd September, 2025, the Council recommended significant rationalisation measures to remove distortions, lower production costs, improve global competitiveness and boost demand in the textile sector. The Government has widened the scope of the lower tax slab to provide relief to consumers and the industry. Specifically, the GST Council recommended increasing the threshold for the 5% GST rate on readymade garments and made-ups from 1,000 per piece 2500 per piece. Furthermore, to correct the Inverted Duty Structure (IDS) and enhance competitiveness, the GST rates on Man-Made Fibres(MMF) and MMF yarns have been reduced from 18% and 12% respectively to 5%. This aligns the fibre-yarn-fabric rates, removing long-standing working capital burdens on manufacturers.

(f): For the development of Textile industry particularly small and medium units, clusters as well as the decentralized Powerloom Sector, the Ministry of Textiles through Office of the Textile Commissioner facilitates the provision of services such as Testing lab, training, awareness, design development, troubleshooting, Powerloom sample Survey through 44 Integrated Textile and Apparel Development Centre (ITADC) in major Powerloom Cluster across the country.

In addition, in order to enhance the capacities and competitiveness of decentralized powerloom sector, PowerTex India Scheme was launched on a Pan India basis for the period 2017-20, which was extended upto 2021. The scheme has now been subsumed under Textile Custer Development Scheme (TCDS) and support is extended for completing ongoing projects for meeting committed liabilities only. Further, to ensure holistic development of powerloom sector in the country, a number of initiatives ie. Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), Group Workshed Scheme, PM Credit Scheme for Powerloom Weavers, In-situ Upgradation Fund Scheme and Comprehensive Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme (CPCDS) have been taken by the Government of India from time to time.

Annexure

STATEWISE POWERLOOM INDUSTRY AT GLANCE

STATE	UNITS	TOTAL LOOMS	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SHUTTLELESS LOOMS
UP	59,038	1,90,874	5,77,748	2,690
RAJASTHAN	945	22,980	54,456	16,434
HARYANA	1,600	25,510	42,533	1,128
PUNJAB&HP,J&K	1,162	14,511	25,025	1,251
MP	8,344	39,979	1,66,147	1,063
NORTH ZONE TOTAL	71,089	2,93,854	8,65,909	22,566
GUJARAT	34,966	5,24,102	6,63,068	34,331
MAHARASHTRA	1,49,613	9,48,891	15,54,938	35,429
CHATTISGARH	49	166	324	NA
WEST ZONE TOTAL	1,84,628	14,73,159	22,18,330	69,760
ORISSA	824	1,793	3,792	NA
WB	3,509	12,690	20,141	25
BIHAR	3,839	20,511	42,770	12
ASSAM/NE	30	464	868	NA
EAST ZONE TOTAL	8,202	35,458	67,571	37
TAMILNADU	89,449	5,62,513	10,18,961	8,794
ANDHRA PRADESH	12,635	48,176	83,850	1,435
KARNATAKA	18,566	68,795	1,53,045	199
KERALA	1,027	4,463	7,865	350
SOUTH ZONE TOTAL	1,21,677	6,83,947	12,63,721	10,778
ALL INDIA	3,85,596	24,86,418	44,18,240	1,03,141
