

Consequent to powerloom stakeholders' meeting already convened by Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles and also the Textile Commissioner, the Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani again convened the meeting on 29th November 2016 at Parliament House, New Delhi.

Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal, Officials of Ministry of Power (including Secretary and JS), Officials of Ministry of Textiles (Ms. Rashmi Verma, Secretary, Smt Puspha Subramaneyam, Addl Secretary and Mr. A. Madhukumar Reddy, Joint Secretary), OSD to Textile Minister, etc., attended the meeting. From industry, Mr. Purushottam K Vanga, Chairman, PDEXCIL, Mr. Dhirubhai Shah, Managing Director Fairdeal Textile Park Pvt Limited, Surat, representatives of Powerloom Associations in Bhiwandi, Mallegan, Mr. C. Palanisamy, President & Mr. Sivalingam, Powerloom Association, Coimbatore and Secretary General of SIMA, Dr K Selvaraju (also representing CITI) attended the meeting.

The highlights of the meeting are given below:

1.	Power tariff is not uniform between States
2.	The power tariff for Power loom sector in States like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra is low (average Rs.3.70 and Rs.3.50 per unit respectively) while the same is very high in States like Gujarat (Rs.7 to 8 per unit)
3.	As the power has become surplus nation wide, the quality of power supply is not a problem
4.	Power is a State subject; Centre has no say; however, the Hon'ble Power Minister would discuss with States like Gujarat to fix a special rate of power tariff for power loom sector.
5.	Centre to consider extending Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) loan facility at lower rate of interest and longer repayment duration (say 10 years – Rs. 700 to 1000 repayment per loom per month) to upgrade the technology of powerlooms
6.	MoT to devise a scheme to upgrade the technology of the entire population of plain power looms in the country (semi-automatic, rapier and air jet technology retrofits for power looms)
7.	MoT to encourage energy conservation measures
8.	Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a firm nominated by Ministry of Power to conduct study in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat and submit a report to the Ministry of Power and Ministry of Textiles regarding the technologies available for upgrading non- automatic powerlooms into semi-automatic and shuttleless looms (rapier and air jet), EESL also to give the scope for energy services in the power loom sector including lighting and motors.
9.	SIMA to coordinate with PDEXCIL, Ministry of Textiles and Powerloom Associations and assist them in preparing the report

Hon'ble Union Textile Minister advised SIMA Secretary General and other industry representatives to have a detailed discussion with the Joint Secretary (Powerloom), Mr. A. Madhukumar Reddy and Mr. K. N. Kehamtha Kumar, Manager (Tech), EESL and brief the Hon'ble Minister. Accordingly, the Joint Secretary (Powerloom), SIMA Secretary General and other representatives had a detailed discussion with the Hon'ble Union Textile Minister and briefed about the action plan for technology Upgradation and energy conservation in the power loom sector. In addition, the following issues were also highlighted to the Hon'ble Union Textile Minister:-

1. Though the powerloom sector is very happy about the initiative taken by both the Hon'ble Ministers to upgrade the technology of the powerlooms appealed to the Hon'ble Minister to consider extending necessary subsidy for the installation of solar power panels in the powerloom sector so that the fabrics and the entire textile value chain would become internationally competitive;

2. Ministry of Textiles to continue to give the grant of Rs.15,000.00 under In-Situ Upgradation Scheme and Rs.50,000/- for converting the non-automatic loom into rapier shuttleless looms and also consider giving higher grant for conversion of non-automatic loom into Air jet loom.;

3. Ministry of Textiles to extend necessary support including the opening of bank accounts and extending additional working capital facility to enable the textile industry, particularly the powerloom sector to mitigate the challenges faced by the industry in the aftermath of demonetization of high value currencies of Rs.500 and Rs.1000 denominations

Hon'ble Union Textile Minister has assured to consider all the pleas made by the industries representatives favourably.