CONCLUSION
&
SUGGESTION
CHAPTER VII

RESUME

Weaving is a specialised activity which involves different processes before the raw material is turned into a finished product. Weaving is quite simply the interlacing of two sets of threads, usually at right angles to one another, to form a fabric. To a casual observer weaving on the handlooms may appear a simple process but in reality it involves a number of laborious preliminary processes before the yarn is put on the loom. They are dyeing, loosening and unwinding, pirn-winding, warping, sizing, joining and twisting, beaming, reeding and weaving.

The weaver households for the present study are classified into five broad categories (i) Independent weavers (ii) Master weavers (iii) weavers under middlemen (iv) Cooperative weavers and (v) Labour weavers. The independent weaver has his own looms and works in his own or rented house. The master weaver is similar to the independent weaver in many respects, except for the fact that he employs outside labour for weaving. The weavers who are working for master weavers or dealers (middlemen) are called weavers under middlemen. The under middlemen weaver has his own house and his own loom. A weaver who becomes a member of a
cooperative society is a cooperative weaver. He obtains yarn from the society and sells finished product to the society itself. The master weavers bring the weavers together in small karkhanas (work sheds); such workers are called labour weavers.

Handloom industry in India is an ancient cottage industry with a decentralised setup spread throughout the country. Handloom industry, with its wide ramifications into the socio-economic fabric of the society, occupies a pivotal place in the Indian economy. Centuries ago, when Europe, the birth place of today's of modern capitalism and industry, had little industrial development to boast of, India was famous for the grand artistic skills of her craftsman. In history, there are evidences to show that the Indian knew the art of weaving for more than five thousand years. In fact that the Egyptian mummies of the five thousand years old are found wrapped in Indian silks and muslins of the finest weave, which prove the high artistic skills of Indian weavers in the past. Handloom industry is perhaps the most important one among the hundred of small scale and cottage arts and crafts have survived in present day India. The Fact Finding Committee, 1942, in concluding its report, answering the question, will the handlooms survive? observed that "The handloom has survived and will survive".
Handloom weaving is a way of life for many people in India. This industry has its roots in rural areas and urban areas. The handloom industry, from the employment point of view, occupies position next to agriculture providing employment directly to more number of people. The employment potential of handlooms is both direct and indirect. About 15 million people are directly depending on the industry for their livelihood, while many more millions of people are depending upon the subsidiary occupations connected with the handloom industry. The industry is also providing indirect employment to loom manufacturers, dyers, twisters, sizers, printers, traders and others. A large number of technicians are employed by this industry for carrying out developments in the working of looms, and also a good number of warpers, cloth printers, tailors, fabric designers, artists are engaged in this industry. The handloom weavers are employed in weaving activity full time, part time, and preparatory work.

Handloom fabrics of India established their reputation in the international markets long before the historic industrial revolution in the west. History has recorded that the handloom fabrics of India not only received popular patronage and adorned regal personages but
also won acclaim abroad in the days of yore. Export of hand-woven cloth dates back to the time of Goutama Buddha. The handloom fabrics of India, occupied a priceless position in the early civilization of Egypt, Rome and Babylon. Indian handlooms were admired by the people allover the world. The handloom industry is an export-oriented component of the Indian industrial structure. These products have won acclaim outside India for their unique colour combinations and attractive designs. Handloom export trade besides meeting the needs of Indian settlers in the traditional markets like Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Srilanka and East-Africa countries in the early 1970's, also penetrated successfully into the non-traditional markets like U.S.A, Canada, Japan and Australia.
**FINDINGS**

During the year 1987-88, there were 38.59 lakh looms in the country. Among the states in the country, Assam ranked first (33.52 per cent) followed by Andhra Pradesh (15.41 per cent), Tamilnadu (9.03 per cent), West Bengal (7.32 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (5.77 per cent). These states put together account for a little over 71 per cent.

The total handlooms in the country, 92.6 per cent were working and the remaining idle. This is quite impressive against the background of surge of the people towards modernity and stiff competition from organised mill sector and decentralised powerlooms. The proportion of dormant handlooms is negligible in Himachal pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya and Pondicherry. The proportion of working looms was 98.53 per cent in Maharashtra, 96.96 per cent in Rajasthan, 96.82 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, 94.08 per cent in West Bengal, 93.92 per cent in Tamilnadu, 93.9 per cent in Karnataka, 93.49 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, 92.21 per cent in Nagaland, 92.19 per cent in Assam, 91.67 per cent in Punjab and 90.38 per cent in Mizoram. In rest of the states, it varied between 77 per cent and 89 per cent. Almost all the looms function in 4 states, more than
90 per cent in 12 states and 77-89 per cent in another 4 states. The working states of handlooms is satisfactory in the rest of the country.

The allocation for the First Five Year Plan as such has not been available since Tamilnadu state was organised during 1956. However, Rs.10 lakhs were incurred during the First Five Year Plan i.e. 1951-56. The allocation for handloom industry increased from Rs.3.3 crores during the Second Plan to Rs.165.45 crores during the Eighth Plan. Similarly amount actually incurred went up from Rs.4.38 crores to Rs.63.27 crores in the aforesaid period. The amount actually incurred exceeded the estimate throughout the period except during the Fourth Five Year Plan which was 80.39 per cent. The proportion of actual estimate was 216.72 per cent in the Sixth Plan period, 158.18 per cent in Seventh Plan and 132.72 per cent in the Second Plan. In the rest of the period it varied between 100.28 per cent 109.20 per cent. It may be concluded that the actual expenditure surpassed the allocation during the planning period leaving Fourth Plan.

The regional distribution of handlooms in Tamilnadu during 1987-88 is 5.94 lakh looms. Of them 36.12 per cent were in Karur region, 33.85 per cent in Salem region and the remaining once were in Jeyankondam region.
The yarn usage-wise classification of handlooms in the state, cotton handlooms formed the highest (82.68 per cent) followed by silk handlooms (17.17 per cent) and wool handlooms (0.15 per cent). It can be concluded that the silk based handlooms are higher in the state as compared to other types of handlooms.

During 1987-88 there were 2.52 lakh weavers working in the state. Of these 42.23 per cent in Karur region, 30.96 in Salem region and the rest in Jeyankondam region. In the case of full-time weavers, Karur region accounted for 42.12 per cent, Salem region 31.07 per cent and the remaining are in Jeyankondam region. With regard to part-time weavers, Karur region formed 42.94 per cent, Salem region 30.21 per cent and Jeyankondam region the rest. Of the total workforce, full time weavers constituted 86.68 per cent in Karur region, 87.22 per cent in Salem region and 86.91 per cent in Jeyankondam region. The rest of part time basis. When all the weavers in the three regions are considered together, full-time weavers accounted for 86.91 per cent and part-time 13.09 per cent.

The weaver households in Karur district are classified into caste groups such as SC's, ST's, BC's and OC's. Of the total number of weaver households nearly 80 per cent belonged to Backward Class, 19.11 per cent Forward Castes,
0.87 per cent Scheduled Castes and the rest Scheduled Tribes. Among the caste groups, backward communities dominate the scene in Karur district as in the case of Tamilnadu and India.

Out of the number of handlooms located in the rural areas, 97.08 per cent worked while the rest were left idle in the district. In the case of handlooms situated at urban centres, 93.65 per cent functioning whereas the remaining are non-working. When the handlooms situated at both the rural and urban localities are considered together, 96.56 per cent are working and the rest, idle.

The quantity of cloth production increased from 26.1 lakh metres in 1984 to 35.90 lakh metres in 1993 with fluctuations. The yearly change is positive in 7 years while the change is negative, in two years. The yearly increase was in the range 4.25-33.66 per cent while decrease was in the range of 7.55 per cent in 1988 and 57.28 per cent in the following year. The CGR during 1984-93 was 0.33 per cent, which is negatively insignificant. The share of Karur Dist. in Tamilnadu was 3.54 per cent in 1984 vis-a-vis 4.33 per cent in 1993. In the meantime, fluctuations are considerable.

On the basis of cloth produced per day, the weaver households of Karur district during 1987-88 are classified into different categories. It can be observed that 48.18 per cent of weaver households produced 2.1-3 metres of cloth.
per day. A little over 24 per cent of households turned out cloth in the range of 3.1-5 metres. For 12.78 per cent of weaver households, the quantum of output was in the range of 1.1-2 metres. Those who produced 5.1-10 metres, 10.1-15 metres were below one metre and 15 metres and more constituted 10.75 per cent, 2.46 per cent, 0.90 per cent and 0.47 per cent. Nearly half of the weaver households produce cloth in the range of 2-3 metres per day.

On the basis of average monthly earnings, weaver households are classified. There were 39.28 per cent of weavers' households in the monthly earnings range of Rs.201-300 followed by 32.67 per cent in the range of Rs.301-500, 12.15 per cent in the category of Rs.101-200, 9.02 per cent in the order of Rs.501-750, 6.12 per cent in the category of Rs.750 and above and the least 0.76 per cent with less than Rs.100. The earnings of nearly 72 per cent of households are in the range of Rs.201-500. It may be concluded that the earnings of weavers differ significantly across the categories.

300 weavers are drawn into the sample frame from the areas of the study. Of the selected weavers, labour weavers were 96, independent weavers 79, weavers under middlemen 74, cooperative weavers 37, and the rest are master weavers.
The highest 26.33 per cent of weavers are in the age group of 30-40 years, 24.34 per cent are in the age group of 20-30 years, 21 per cent are in the age group of 40-50 years, 17.34 per cent in the class are in the age group of 50-60 years, 7.66 per cent are below age of 20 years and the rest are 60 and above. The independent and labour weavers are found in all the age groups. The master weavers with age less than 20 years and cooperative weavers below 20 years and 60 years and more are absent.

An attempt has been made to highlight the difference in the age group of the respondents between the traditional weaving and the non-weaving castes. The share of the respondents from the weaving castes is more in the age group of less than 20 years, 40-50 years, 50-60 years and 60 years and more as compared with the respondents from non-weaving castes. In the range of 50-60 years, weavers belonging to weaving castes constituted 19.07 per cent vis-a-vis non-weaving castes 10.94 per cent. In the remaining age groups, the proportion of non-weaving castes is greater than that of weaving castes. In the age group of 20-30 years, the former and the latter formed 22.46 per cent and 31.25 per cent. The weavers from traditional weaving castes (8.05 per cent) practices weaving at an earlier age than non-weaving castes do (6.25 per cent).
Out of the total respondents, 78.67 per cent were from traditional weaving castes and the rest non-weaving castes. The weaving castes constituted 92.85 per cent in master weavers, 89.19 per cent in cooperative weavers, 82.29 per cent in independent weavers, 74.32 per cent in the weavers under middlement and 72.9 per cent in labour weavers and the remaining from non-weaving castes. It is found from the application of chi-square test, that there is no significant association between the weaving caste of weavers and type of weavers. The same is observed between non-weaving caste weavers and types of weavers. The corresponding chi-square statistic are not significant at 5 per cent level and they are respectively given by 4.974 and 0.025. Both the traditional weaving castes as well as non-traditional weaving castes depend on weaving for the livelihood.

The sex-wise particulars of the respondents, 96.33 per cent are men and the rest, women. Among men 5 or 1.73 per cent are children. All the master weavers are men only. In the case of independent weavers, men are 98.73 per cent and the remaining women. With regard to weavers under middlemen, men constitute 98.65 per cent and the rest women. Men form 94.79 per cent and 89.19 per cent in labour and cooperative weavers.
In the case of independent weavers households, the number of members is less than 3 in 13.92 per cent of households, 4-6 members in 81.01 per cent of households and 7 members and more in the rest of the families. In the case of master weavers households, the proportion of households in the aforesaid family sizes are 14.29 per cent, 78.57 per cent and 7.14 per cent. With regard to weaver households, weavers under middlemen, the share of households in the family size of below 3 persons, 4-6 members and 7 persons and more are 24.32 per cent, 72.98 per cent and 2.70 per cent sequentially. A similar trend is found in co-operative weaver households. In respect of labour weaver households, there are below 3 persons in 38.54 per cent of households, 4-6 persons in 56.25 per cent of families and 7 persons and above in the remaining households. When all the respondents are considered together, the proportion of households in the family size of fewer 3 persons, 4-6 persons and 7 persons and more are 25.67 per cent 69.67 per cent and 4.66 per cent. On an average, number of members per household is 5.02. Among the weaver categories, family size is the highest in cooperative weaver households (5.76) followed by labour weaver households (5.55) independent weaver households (5.18), master weaver households (4.86) and weaver households under middlemen (4.76).
Out of the total samples 300, 50 have migrated from other mandals, other districts, other states, which come around 17 per cent. It is to note that out of 50 migrated families, 24 are labour weavers (48 per cent), followed by weavers under middlemen category 12 (24 per cent), independent weavers 6, cooperative weavers 5, and master weavers 3.

Out of 300 sample households, 215 have come to weaving from other occupations, whereas 85 respondents belonged to the same occupation. Out of 215 respondents most of them constituting 62.33 per cent have been either wage labourers under weavers or doing business related to weaving. About one third have moved from the status of labour weavers either as independent, cooperative or as weavers under middlemen. About 22 per cent of the sample weavers were earlier agricultural labourers. There are also other types of labourers like construction workers who could shift to weaving as present occupation. It is found from the application of Chi-square test that there is a significant association between the previous activity of the weavers and type of the weavers. The corresponding chi-square statistic is significant at one per cent level that is given by 30.60.

The majority of the respondents representing 37 per cent of the total expressed that weaving is the inherited
activity from their forefathers, hence it became their hereditary occupation, 15 per cent of the respondents have followed this occupation because of attractive earnings. 15.33 per cent respondents have entered the weaving activity due to less capital requirement, 32.67 per cent of the respondents do not know anything other than weaving activity hence they have been continuing the same occupation. It can be concluded that most of the weavers have chosen weaving activity as inherited from the forefathers, or because they lack knowledge in any other activity, whereas few weavers are either attracted by greater earnings or induced by less capital requirement. The application of chi-square test reveals that there is significant association between the reasons for selecting present line of activity and type of the weavers. The corresponding chi-square is significant at 5 per cent level and is given by 19.22.

It is observed by the application of Chi-square test there is significant association between people who motivated the respondents to enter weaving activity and type of the weavers. The corresponding chi-square statistic are highly significant at one per cent level and is given by 18.15.

From the application of chi-square test it is observed that there is significant association between type
of houses and type of the weavers. The corresponding chi-square statistical value is highly significant at one per cent level and is given by 83.81.

The asset position of independent weavers is more in the form of house accounting for 48.98 per cent of total assets followed by the form of land (44.57 per cent). The same trend can also be seen in the case of master weavers. Houses from 61.74 per cent of the total assets followed by land assets (31.04 per cent). But in the case of weavers under middlemen assets in the form of land are greater than other forms; 40.26 per cent of the total assets value is in the form of land followed by house building (31.12 per cent) livestock (23.48 per cent) and the like. The same trend can also be observed in the case of cooperative weavers and labour weavers.

The looms form 5.91 per cent of the total assets value in the independent weavers, 5.92 per cent in the case of master weavers, 4.79 per cent weavers under middlemen category, 6.61 per cent in the cooperative weavers. Labour weavers do not have any assets in the form of looms because they just depend upon master weavers for their employment and wages.

Among 74 respondents who come weavers under middlemen category 60 respondents possess only one loom and 14
respondents possess 2 to 3 looms, which representing 81.08 per cent and 18.92 per cent. There is no respondent under this category who has more than 3 looms. There are 37 sample respondents who come under co-operative weaving. Among them, 34 respondents possess only one loom each, which represents 91.89 per cent. There are only 2 respondents who have 2 to 3 looms of each. There is only one respondent who have 4 to 5 looms.

It is observed that there is significant difference among types of weavers' weaving income and the non-weaving income. The corresponding F-statistics are highly significant at one per cent level and they are given by 155.56 and 134.26.

It is observed from the analysis of variance that there are significant differences among five types of weavers monthly income, and expenditure that is, food, clothes, education, rent, medicines, personal expenditure. The corresponding F-statistics are highly significant at one per cent level and they are respectively given by 115.85, 133.39, 32.83, 6.05, 42.93, 59.82 and 55.48.
The average investment of all the weavers works out to be Rs.17625.50 out of which the fixed capital consists of 57.11 per cent and the remaining is working capital. The average capital of the master weavers is far greater than that of other weavers, the fixed capital consisting of 55.23 per cent of the total capital. Next to master weavers the independent weavers have greater average capital of Rs.9752 out of which the fixed capital consists of 61.94 per cent of total capital. The cooperative weavers have the lowest average capital, but high percentage (79.17 per cent) of fixed capital. It can be observed that the average capital of master weavers is the highest, independent and master weavers average capital is greater than the total average. It is also observed that as the average capital decreases the percentage of fixed capital increases.

The categories of weavers, out of total investment own funds constitute greater percentage (77.82 per cent) than the borrowed funds. But this is different for the weavers under middlemen and the cooperative weavers for whom the own funds constitute 33.09 per cent and 28.48 per cent out of their total funds each. In the case of master weaver the proportion of own funds is far greater than the proportion for all the weavers. For independent weavers, however, their own funds constitute greater than the borrowed funds.
and the percentage of own funds (72.03 per cent) is slightly below the overall average.

As far as the total capital is concerned, weavers depend more on their own funds (77.82 per cent) except the weavers under middlemen who depend more on the borrowed capital (66.91 per cent) and cooperative weavers (71.52 per cent). The dependence of weavers on different sources varies with the type of weavers and also the nature of capital. The composition of own funds is greater in fixed capital than in the working capital. The same can be noticed in the total capital. The percentage of own capital in the fixed capital is 85.73 per cent whereas it is 67.28 per cent in the case of working capital and 77.82 per cent in the case of total capital. The percentage of own capital in the case of fixed capital is greatest in the case of independent weavers (92.88 per cent) and lowest in the case of cooperative weavers (35.97 per cent). The proportion of borrowed capital is highest in the case of cooperative weavers (64.03 per cent) and lowest in the case of independent weavers (7.12 per cent). However, the composition of own and borrowed funds in the case of working capital is different. The percentage of borrowed funds out of total working capital is more than the own capital in the case of independent weavers.
In fact the weavers under middlemen and cooperative weavers depend totally on the borrowed funds further working capital. But the weavers under middlemen on the other hand depend more upon their own funds than on borrowed funds. Thus it can be inferred that in total the weavers depend upon own funds for fixed and working capital except the weavers under middlemen who depend upon borrowed funds on working capital and also for fixed capital more than other weavers. Whereas cooperative weavers depend more upon borrowed funds both for fixed and working capital.

Out of the total sample weavers most of them (22.55 per cent) buy raw materials outside the state followed by cooperative societies (18.12 per cent) and local market (17.16 per cent). The remaining weavers buy raw materials from outside the mandal (12.75 per cent), within the district (15.69 per cent) and outside the district (13.73 per cent). Other states form the main sources of inputs for all the weavers except cooperative weavers. Next to this, independent weavers depend upon local market, the master weavers outside the district and weavers under middlemen within the district for the raw material. The cooperative weavers depend mainly upon the cooperative societies.
Out of the 204 weavers 77 weavers (37.75 per cent) purchase raw material fortnightly and 30.39 per cent of the weavers each purchase raw material once in a week and once in a month. Among the independent weavers, most of them (i.e. 44.30 per cent) purchase their raw materials once in a month, while in the case of master weavers, 50 per cent purchase their required raw materials once in a week. The weavers under middlemen category usually get their raw materials once in fortnightly 45.95 per cent of the total weavers followed by 29.73 per cent of the weavers who buy once in a week. In the case of cooperative weavers, 40.55 per cent of the weavers usually get their raw material once in a week. Among all the weavers, only the weavers under middlemen and cooperative weavers purchase raw materials daily.

The total yarn that is used by the sample weavers is 1177.85 kgs a month. Out of this total raw material, independent weavers use 34.23 per cent, master weavers 32.72 per cent, weavers under middlemen category use 23.93 per cent and co-operative weavers use 9.12 per cent. The total value of the raw materials used in a month is Rs.12,65,127, out of this total value of the raw material per month independent weavers used 33.66 per cent value of raw material, master
weavers 36.08 per cent, weavers under middlemen category used 21.81 per cent and co-operative weavers 8.45 per cent of the total value.

It is interesting to note that the quality of raw material that is used by the master weavers is less than what the independent weavers use but in terms of the value of raw materials master weavers use more than what the independent weavers use. The year-wise quantity and value of raw materials is higher proportion of the raw material was used by the master weavers closely followed by weavers under middlemen, independent and co-operative weavers. The same can be observed in terms of value of raw materials also.

The value-wise distribution of cloth produced by all the respondents under different categories of weavers under study during 1995-1996. There are 98 respondents accounting for 48.05 per cent of the total whose average value of the cloth is in the range of rupees below 10000 to 50000, 42 respondents representing 20.59 per cent have produced between above Rs.50000 and below 70000. There are 64 respondents representing 31.36 per cent of the total who have produced above Rs.70000 per annum. It is interesting to note that the proportion of cloth production is far higher in the case of master weavers whose production is above Rs.70000 per annum.
recommended by weavers under middlemen (50.00 per cent) and also by cooperative weavers.

Out of the total material cost for all the weavers for all items the yarn cost constitute the greatest percentage of 91.79 per cent and the dye cost constitutes 8.21 per cent only. This is true with all the categories of weavers. The yarn cost is maximum for the independent weavers and the dye-cost is maximum for the weavers under middlemen.

The average labour cost for all the weavers for all the items is worked out to be Rs.128.27, out of which the weaving cost constitute the greatest percentage (56.58 per cent) followed by bobbing cost (19.61 per cent) and sizing cost (18.52 per cent). The piecing cost constitutes only 5.29 per cent of the total labour cost. This is true with all the categories of weavers. The sizing, bobbing and piecing cost are maximum for the master weavers, whereas the weaving cost is the least for them. The sizing, bobbing and piecing cost are minimum and weaving cost is maximum for the independent weavers.

The cotton sarees cooperative weavers have the highest cost (Rs.58.34) and the weavers under middlemen have the lowest cost (Rs.42.72). In the case of Polyester sarees the independent weavers have the highest cost (Rs.54.74) and master weavers have the lowest cost (Rs.51.35).
Out of the total value of handloom products most of it came from furnishings (64.37 per cent) followed by polyester and Bed Sheets. Half sarees from lowest percentage of the total value. 65 per cent of the value of cloth production has been from furnishings. Production in the case of independent weavers followed polyester sarees and Bed sheets. The other types of production was relatively smaller. This can also be seen in the case of master weavers, and also weavers under middlemen. It is interesting to note that under the category of co-operative weavers, the value of Bed Sheets production comes about 73 per cent of the total value followed by furnishing, dhoties and handkerchiefs. It is due to the fact that Government is supplying cotton yarn to produce cotton sarees. The independent weavers, master weavers and weavers under middlemen produce furnishing relatively more because they get yarn from private sources which is more profitable.

The cost of production can be reduced, according to them, by using modern looms (43.59 per cent), quality yarn, (17.85 per cent) and adoption of new technology (38.46 per cent). Among the weavers who have expressed positive opinion, independent weavers constitute the greatest percentage (57.15 per cent) and for them adoption of new technology seems to be the best method. Usage of modern looms are
of silk sarees the master weavers have the highest cost (Rs.244.79) and the cooperative weavers, the lowest cost (Rs.180.41). In the case of half sarees the master weavers have slightly higher cost than the weavers under middlemen have (Rs.22.51, 22.14). The average cost of dhoties is highest among weavers under middlemen (Rs.36.60) and lowest among cooperative weavers (Rs.21.67). The average cost of lungies is highest in case of independent weavers (Rs.29.50) and lowest in case of weavers under middlemen (Rs.24.95). The cost of bedsheets is highest among weavers under middlemen (Rs.36.78) and lowest among independent weavers (Rs.34.61). In the case of blouse pieces the cost is highest in weavers under middlemen (Rs.28.38) and lowest in master weavers (Rs.25.00). In the case of handkerchiefs the cost is the highest among independent weavers (Rs.35.53) and lowest in the case of cooperative weavers (Rs.15.67).

In total, keeping the raw material cost (58.15 per cent), aside, the cost is more for weaving (18.82 per cent). Next to this comes the cost of production of bobbing and winding (5.98 per cent), sizing and starching (5.52 per cent) dyeing (4.38 per cent). The raw material cost and the weaving cost occupy greater percentage of total cost in all the fabrics. But with regard to other processes the difference rises among different fabrics. Regarding cotton
sarees the cost of bobbing is greater than the cost of sizing and dyeing and piecing. In case of polyester sarees also the cost of bobbing is greater than that of sizing. This is true with dhoties, lungies, bed sheets and handkerchiefs. But in the case of silk sarees the cost of dyeing is greater than that of bobbing and sizing. Among other items of almost all the types of fabrics the depreciation cost is greater than that of interest on capital followed by electricity charges and other expenses.

The case of master weavers the cost of raw material (59.88 per cent) and the weaving cost (15.27 per cent) form greater percentages with regard to total fabrics. This is true with all the types of fabrics. But with regard to other processes there is variation with regard to half sarees lungies, blouse pieces and bed sheets and handkerchiefs, the cost of sizing is greater than the cost of bobbing dyeing and piecing. But with regard to cotton sarees and polyester sarees the cost of bobbing is greater than that of sizing. This is true with cost of all types of cloth. Silk sarees are significant that the cost of dyeing is greater than the cost of bobbing and sizing. Regarding other items the overall average cost is greater in the case of other expenses. This is mainly due to the reason that other expenses are
far higher than other items in the case of cotton sarees. But in other types of fabrics, as it is common, the depreciation cost and interest charges are greater than the cost on other items. 

As far as all the weavers are concerned, as it is common the raw material cost forms highest percentage (47.7 per cent) followed by weaving (15.97 per cent) bobbing (11.06 per cent) sizing (8.78 per cent) and others. This is true with all the type of weavers. Regarding other costs, for all the weavers except master weavers depreciation costs form highest percentage followed by interest charges electricity charges and other expenses. But in the case of master weavers other expenses form far high percentage. This has influenced the overall average also to the extent that for all the weavers, other expenses form greater percentage (6.02 per cent) than depreciation (3.67 per cent) interest charges (1.51 per cent) and electricity charges (0.67 per cent).

In the case of polyester Sarees, raw material cost and weaving cost occupy the first and second place (54.26 and 17.14 per cent). As regards the cost of different items, next come the costs of bobbing, (10.72 per cent) sizing (8.36 per cent). Regarding other charges depreciation cost
are the highest (3.40 per cent) followed by interest charges, electricity charges and other expenses. This is true with all types of weavers.

In contrast to other fabrics, in the case of half sarees the weaving costs are greater than the raw material cost. This is true with the average 33.70 per cent, 28.71 per cent and in the case of master weavers (32.21 per cent, 30.25 per cent) and the weavers under middlemen (35.19 per cent, 27.15 per cent). Among the pre-weaving processes sizing, bobbing, dyeing and piecing form the highest percentage in the order. Among other items depreciation charges, interest charges, electricity charges and other expenses form the order in the percentage of operational cost. These are true with the average and also in the case of master weavers and weavers under middlemen. Other weavers do not produce half sarees.

In the case of dhoties also the raw material cost (45.64 per cent) and weaving costs (25.53 per cent) are greater than other costs. But in the case of pre-weaving processes dhoties are different from sarees. In the case of dhoties sizing costs are greater than bobbing and like costs piecing costs and dyeing costs.

In the case of handkerchiefs also the raw materials and weaving form the highest cost (49.33 per cent, 21.15 per
cent) sizing and bobbing, form next highest cost (8.77 per cent, 6.80 per cent) followed by dyeing and piecing. Among other items depreciation, interest charges form the highest percentage of cost (2.97 per cent, 2.68 per cent) followed by electricity charges (2.68 per cent) and other expenses (1.19 per cent).

The input cost like material, labour and other costs also vary with the type of weavers in their percentages. The material cost forms greatest percentage (62.72 per cent) of the total cost followed by labour cost (31.14 per cent) and other costs (6.07 per cent). This is true with all the types of weavers, but the material cost is highest (65.29 per cent) for the master weavers and lowest for the weavers under middlemen (60.29 per cent).

The labour cost is highest in the case of weavers under middlemen (34.28 per cent) and lowest for the master weavers (28.03 per cent). Other costs are highest for the cooperative weavers (6.78 per cent) and lowest for the weavers under middlemen (5.43 per cent).

The material costs forms bulk of the total cost followed by labour costs and other costs; the respective percentages are 62.79, 31.14 and 6.07, but there is variation among different items. Material cost is maximum for the sarees (66.25 per cent) which is more than the average, and
it is minimum for the dhoties (46.80 per cent). Labour cost is maximum for the dhoties (43.62 per cent) which is more than the average of 31.14 per cent and it is minimum for the sarees. Other costs are maximum for the dhoties and minimum for the sarees.

Out of 79 independent weavers 52 weavers (65.82 per cent) have seasonal demand for their product, 27 weavers (34.18 per cent) have continuous market for their product, while in the case of master weavers 64.29 per cent of the weavers have continuous demand for their product, 35.71 per cent of the weavers do have seasonal demand. In the case of cooperative weavers, 54.05 per cent of the weavers have seasonal demand for their product 45.95 per cent of the weavers have continuous demand for their product. Out of 130 total weavers excluding weavers under middlemen, 59.23 per cent of the weavers have seasonal market for their product, 40.77 per cent of the weavers have continuous demand for their product.

Every businessman or product wants to expand the activity always to satisfy the objective of profit as well as wealth maximisation. As many as 125 respondents representing 61.27 per cent of the total weavers are planning for expansion of their weaving activity, whereas the remaining 79 respondents representing 38.73 per cent have expressed
that they do not have such plans. It is observed that the most of the respondents from the category of weavers under middlemen are reluctant for expansion, whereas reverse is true in the case of independent, master and cooperative weavers. The weavers expressed different methods of expansion. Majority of the respondents representing 59.2 per cent of the total, reported that they want to add some more looms to existing capacity, 28 per cent of the respondents have expressed that they want to add new products. A few respondents representing 12.8 per cent have expressed that they want to introduce mechanisation equipment in their units.

As many as 49 respondents representing 62.03 per cent have expressed that they want to continue the existing state of operations, 28 respondents representing 35.44 per cent want to reduce the scale of operation whereas 2 respondents representing 2.53 per cent have expressed that they are planning to wind up their activity. Out of the total respondents, 79 representing 38.73 per cent of the respondents have expressed their views for not favouring of expansions of their weaving activity. From the above analysis, there is some sort of pessimism among the weavers. The reasons for this may be low returns, lack of encouragement for their work, and their extreme poverty to derive wolf
away. Optimism is very important and essential for the development for any activity. Pessimism like cancer always kills the zeal of the weavers in the profession. Hence, it is imperative on the part of Government to kindle light of hope in the gloomy, lives of destitute weavers in order to save the ancient profession of weaving.

Out of such weavers 36 respondents representing 17.65 per cent have not revealed their plans and programmes in order to improve the quality and quantity of output, 82.35 per cent of the respondents have revealed their plans and programmes like, improving the quality (23.04 per cent), produce export oriented cloth (10.29 per cent), increase the quantity of cloth (20.10 per cent) and introduction of new looms in the process of production (28.92 per cent).

As many as 167 respondents representing 81.86 per cent of the total have expressed that the subsidy on inputs will help them to a large extent, whereas the remaining 37 respondents representing 18.13 per cent have expressed that it will not have much impact on them.

Out of total persons engaged in weaving men form the majority (58.55 per cent) followed by women (30.82 per cent) and children (10.63 per cent). 67.15 per cent are men 31.03 per cent women and 30 per cent children are engaged in weaving processes, the remaining engaged in pre-weaving
process. In all workers, a little more than half of the workers are engaged in weaving process.

Out of the total labour, the family labour forms the majority 60.68 per cent and hired labour forms 29.32 per cent only. The labour weavers and cooperative weavers depend wholly upon the family labour, the percentage to total labour being 100 per cent and 98.87 per cent. The weavers under middlemen and independent weavers also engage family labour (97.19 per cent and 72.98 per cent). Only the master weavers engage less of family labour (11.35 per cent) and more of hired labour (88.65 per cent).

Among the total weavers, the full-time weavers constitute greater percentage (66.21 per cent) than the part-time weavers (33.79 per cent). This is true with labour weavers, master weavers, independent weavers and to some extent with weavers under middlemen. The percentage of full-time weavers is highest among labour weavers. But in the case of cooperative weavers the full-time weavers constitute 48.89 per cent only. There are greater number of full-time weavers than part-time weavers in all the categories of weavers except the cooperative weavers.

Out of the total weavers skilled weavers constitute 45.16 per cent, semi-skilled 32.09 per cent and the unskilled the remaining i.e. 22.75 per cent. The skilled weavers
constitute greater per cent in the case of men (57.17 per cent) and children (42 per cent) whereas unskilled weavers constitute greater per cent in women (43.79 per cent). Semi-skilled are slightly more in the case of children than women and men. It is found from the application of the chi-square test that there is much significant association between the sex and skill, family and hired labour. The corresponding Chi-square statistic is much significant at 5 per cent level and is given by 136.9.

Out of total 300 weavers 75 (25.00 per cent) have received training, but remaining 225 (75.00 per cent) have not undergone any training. Among those received training largest percentage are independent weavers (34.18 per cent), followed by weavers under middlemen (31.08 per cent). The least percentage are cooperative weavers (13.51 per cent) followed by labour weavers (18.75 per cent). Among those who have not received training cooperative weavers constitute the highest percentage (86.49 per cent) and the master weavers constitute the least percentage (5.33 per cent).

The average working hours a day is 8.5 hours of working for master weavers. The independent weavers are working 8.23 hours a day, cooperative weavers are working 7.84 hours a day. Then weavers under middlemen and labour weavers are working 7.73 and 7.69 hours. The smallest co-
efficient of variation (11.34 per cent) shows that there is consistency with regard to master weavers and the highest co-efficient of variation (19.79 per cent) indicates that there is more heterogeneity among the cooperative weavers with regard to working hours. Labour weavers and independent weavers exhibit almost equal homogeneity with reference to working hours. There is more variation in weavers under middlemen when it is compared with master, independent and labour weavers.

The number of working days in the year by different types of weavers. The average number of working days for the total weavers was 256.36. This was the highest (285) days in the case of master weavers and lowest (234.72) in the case of cooperative weavers. The highest number of weavers of all the types except master weavers have worked 240-270 days followed by 270-300 days in the case of independent weavers and under middlemen, 180-210 days in the case of cooperative weavers and 270-300 days in the case of labour weavers. In the case of master weavers the highest number of weavers (42.85 per cent) worked 270-300 days followed by (28.57 per cent) each who worked 240-270 and 300-330 days. The lowest number of weavers have worked for 150-180 days in independent weavers, under middlemen and labour weavers.
But in the case of cooperative weavers, the lowest number of weavers worked 300-330 days. It is significant to note that greater number of weavers of all types except cooperative weavers are in the higher working hours showing greater capacity utilization of the looms. But in the case of cooperative weavers, greater number of weavers are in the fewer working hours showing less capacity utilization of looms.

The average working days in a year 285 days are worked out for master weavers. The independent weavers have worked 249.68 days a year. The labour weavers, weavers under middlemen and cooperative weavers have worked 260.63, 251.76 and 234.72 days a year. It is interesting to note that nobody can work continuously throughout the year because of rains, power and material shortages. The value of coefficient of variation with regard to number of working days, reveals the same type of conclusion as obtained with regard to working hours. It is observed that there is almost the same variation among independent, labour and weavers under middlemen with reference to the number of working days.

As far as the independent weavers are concerned i.e. 46.84 per cent of them faced the problem of higher prices followed by 25.32 per cent of weavers who faced the problems of inadequate supply, whereas 12.66 per cent of the
respondents faced lot of competition while procuring the required raw material, 5 per cent of the respondents get poor quality of raw material. In the case of master weavers, 42.86 per cent faced the problem of high prices followed by the problem of competition faced by 28.57 per cent of master weavers. The problem of inadequate supply was faced by 14.29 per cent of the master weavers and 7.14 per cent of the master weavers problem of untimely supply and poor quality of raw material. In the case of under middlemen category of weavers, inadequate supply, untimely supply, high prices and poor quality were the main problems faced by the weavers. (40.54 per cent, 25.68 per cent and 16.22 per cent respectively). The cooperative weavers mainly faced the problems of inadequate supply (56.76 per cent) high prices (16.22 per cent) and malpractice (13.51 per cent). The same is the case of all the weavers put together. Majority of them i.e. 35.78 per cent of the weavers face inadequate supply followed by 29.90 per cent who faced the problem of the higher prices, 12.25 per cent of the total weavers do not get raw material when they want. It is observed from the application of chi-square test that there is significant association between problems relating to procurement of raw material and type of the weavers. The corresponding chi-square statistic is highly significant at 1 per cent level.
and is given by 22.31. It can be seen that higher prices, inadequate supply and untimely supply of yarn are the main problems.

Between 1992-97 the polyester yarn price increased by 36.67 per cent whereas the average price of polyester products increased by 37.93 per cent. The difference between yarn price and product price is greater in the case of silk. Between 1992-97 the silk yarn price increased by 50 per cent whereas the average price of products increased by about 57 per cent. That is why the problem of increasing price of yarn is faced grievously by the cotton weavers rather than the polyester and silk weavers.

Among the 204 sample weavers, majority of them (32.35 per cent) encounter the problem of high prices followed by untimely supply (30.88 per cent) and inadequate supply (24.02 per cent) poor quality of raw material (12.75 per cent). Other than yarn is also the problem and it is faced by the sample weavers.

Out of 204 weavers, 72 weavers forming 35.29 per cent come in this category. Power shortage, rains, and lack of demand were the other reasons reported by the weavers (14.71 per cent, 14.71 per cent, and 13.24 per cent). Shortage of raw material was the main reason in the case of independent weavers (32.91 per cent), weavers under middlemen
(31.08 per cent) and cooperative weavers (56.76 per cent). But in the case of master weavers lack of skilled labour was the main reason (42.86 per cent) for not achieving the expected levels of production.

Most of the master weavers (42.86 per cent) stated delay in sanction as the main problem, whereas 35.71 per cent complained about the inadequacy of loan. Majority of the weavers under middlemen (68.92 per cent) stated that the lack of security followed by inadequacy (56.76 per cent) and delay in sanction (52.70 per cent) are the main problems regarding finance. Cooperative weavers also face many problems with regard to finance, their main problems are delay in sanction (89.19 per cent), lack of security (54.05 per cent) and inadequacy (48.65 per cent). The main problem of labour weavers is the lack of security (82.29 per cent) and the delay in sanction (54.17 per cent). Compared to other weavers, more number of labour weavers revealed lack of awareness. Regarding finance the weavers face other problems like corruption of middlemen, lack of proper response. Labour weavers face these problems more than other weavers.

Among the total weavers 51.54 per cent face the competition from powerlooms and 23.08 per cent from the mill. About one fourth of the weavers do not face competition as their main product is silk sarees which are exclusively
handloom clothes. Cooperative weavers are the main affected groups as their cotton products face stiff competition from powerlooms (62.16 per cent) and mills (24.33 per cent), whereas only 13.51 per cent weavers do not face competition. Independent weavers are less affected by competition, as 45.57 per cent and 22.78 per cent face competition from powerlooms and mills respectively, whereas 31.65 per cent of weavers do not face competition at all. The figures for master weavers with regard to competition from powerlooms and mills are 57.14 per cent and 21.43 per cent respectively. It is inferred from the application of the chi-square test that there is no significant difference between type of weavers and the question of facing of the competition. The chi-square statistic value is not significant at 5 per cent level and it is given by 1.306.

There are 60 weavers who are not getting reasonable price. Among them mostly are independent weavers, due to lack of working capital (33.33 per cent) for holding stocks until the weavers get reasonable price. When weavers do not have working capital for storage, they are forced to sell their product without waiting for profitable price and as soon as production is over. Some of the weavers do not get reasonable price due to the high yarn price (31.48 per cent) high labour charges (11.11 per cent) and low market prices
(24.08 per cent) of marketing goods. The master weavers do not get reasonable price mainly because of high prices of yarn (50 per cent) and low market price of the product (33.33 per cent). It can be observed that the weavers are not able to secure profitable price mainly because of lack of working capital and high yarn prices.

Late payment forms the problem with highest per cent of weavers (50.00 per cent) followed by low margin (26.00 per cent) and irregular supply of raw materials (24.00 per cent) among different types of weavers. Independent weavers face problems like low margin and irregular supply whereas the cooperative weavers face the problem of late payment and irregular supply of raw materials. The main problems of master weavers are low margin and irregular supply of raw materials.

Out of total weavers (204), 82 respondents representing 40.20 per cent are getting adequate profits, the remaining 122 respondents representing 59.80 per cent are not getting adequate profits. Majority of the weavers except master weavers are not getting adequate profits in weaving activity. It is observed from the application of chi-square test that there is significant association between the type of weavers and profitability of the weavers. The corresponding chi-square value is highly significant at one per cent level and is given by 14.06.
The weaving activity has benefited all the master weavers and more number of independent weavers than other weavers in improving their standard of living. Most of the labour weavers under middlemen category and cooperative weavers are not benefitted from weaving activity in terms of improvement in the standard of living. From the application of chi-square test it is observed that there is significant association between type of weavers and improvement in the standard of living. The corresponding Chi-square value is highly significant at 1 per cent level and is given by 22.96.

Out of the total cooperative weavers, only 10.81 per cent of the weavers reported that the societies are providing continuous work through supply of yarn. Out of 37 members of the cooperative almost 90 per cent feel that the cooperatives have let them down by not providing them with adequate supply of yarn. Out of the weavers for whom the societies are unable to provide yarn and continuous work, K. Paramathi has the highest percentage (24.24 per cent) followed by the Thanthontrimalai, Aravakurichi and Chinnadarapuram. In total, the cooperative societies have not been providing adequate supply of yarn.

Out of total weavers only 18.92 per cent have expressed satisfaction with the functioning of societies. That means majority of the weavers are not satisfactory with the functioning of societies.
SUGGESTIONS

Handloom industry in India still occupies a pivotal place in the Indian economy. It is the most important one among hundred of small scale and cottage industries in India. From the point of employment it occupies a position next to agriculture. Since recent years the industry has been playing an important role in Indian exports also and the contribution of handloom products like fabrics garments, madeups, silk items and other non cotton items has become quite significant. So, the industry has to be given greater recognition and all efforts to be made to further strengthen the industry to give proper place in the arena of Indian industry.

The Plans have set the starting point of economic resurgence of village and small scale industries including handloom industries. Different Plans emphasised different dimensions of handloom industry like, supply of inputs, expansion of the industry, cooperativisation, marketing and the problems faced by these industries. Yet most of them warrant greater attention and support in the Plans. The future Plans have to necessarily take cognizance of the growing importance of the handloom industry and the problems faced by them, and thereby provide sufficient plan allocation and also important programmes to enable the industry survive and strengthened.
The organisation of handloom industry shows very complex pattern, nevertheless the entities are loosely interlinked. The multiple levels in the organisation structure, and the lack of the well defined interrelationship, or, for that matter, autonomy for each organisation level is not allowing the industry to operate on scientific and profitable lines. So the institutions in the organisational setup at different levels should be linked together with well defined organisational principles. Or they have to be provided with sufficient autonomy as the regional and operational level so that they can function effectively. In this context cooperativisation is the well accepted answer for the problems faced by the handloom industry. Full cooperativisation will not only provide large scale economy to the entire organisation and also to the independent weavers, but also protect the handloom industry from powerlooms on one hand and the master weavers and middlemen on the other.

After independence the industry was given due importance in the Industrial Policy Resolutions and also in the different Textile Policies. All these policies recognised the importance of handloom sector and have given attention, but they have dealt with the blanket proposals
like overall expansion of industry, providing financial and organisational support on a uniform basis and has not made provisions to regulate the competition from mills and powerloom sector. In recent years certain provisions are made to increase the exports of handloom products. But all these steps in their attempt to provide macro solution failed to reach out to the various problems at micro level.

Several programmes and schemes were formulated and implemented in matters related to finance, rebate, excise duties, risk and loss guarantee, insurances, health and savings. But all these programmes and schemes were devised for the cooperative weavers whose proportion in the total number of weavers is very small. As such the efforts on the part of the Government has touched the tip of the iceberg and left many more weavers out of the cooperative field uncovered. Secondly all these programmes are too diversified and unintegrated to reach the weavers who are facing the multitudinal problems at the same time. Thirdly even in the cooperative assistance the master weavers and other vociferous independent weavers have been cornering the benefits in the name of benami and adhoc weavers. So it is necessary on one hand to dove-tail different programmes and schemes, and on the other to rationalise these schemes so
that the benefits reach the right and deserving type of weavers.

Several Committees were constituted and Boards were appointed to look into the different aspects of handloom industry and examine the development of and the problems faced by handloom industry. Each of these Committees addressed themselves to a particular aspect in different periods. Two important lacunae were embedded in this effort. As all these Committees addressed themselves to particular aspect, an integrated solution failed to emerge. In fact, the handloom industry faced not one problem but all or many of the problems as mentioned by the Committees. They need not one-dimensional solution but multi-dimensional approach to the problems. Another important lacuna was that when one problem was being studied and given proper treatment other problems not only cropped up but also magnified. That is why, these problems have become persistent. So the Government should go for an integrated study of problems of handloom industry and simultaneously provide multi treatment of the problems.

Tamilnadu had been a major producer of handloom cloth in India and till 1970s had the largest number of looms in all the states. But, in the following decade there
was decline in the number of looms throughout India, but the
decline has been extremely sharp in Tamilnadu. The decline
has been most acute in the districts of Karur region. The
effect of this decline had been so staggering on the lives
of weavers that the weavers resorted to human harakiri in
early 1990's. This unfortunate phenomenon should be
recognised with shame and submission, the causes be examined
and the immediate rehabilitation extended to all the weavers
so that these lives are saved, activity strengthened and the
art respected.

In Tamilnadu the institutions operating for the
handloom sector should be strengthened. The weavers in the
outside cooperative fold should be given greater support in
the implementation of special programmes because these
weavers are subject to several onslaughts in the fields of
production and marketing. The TNCO which is the apex
marketing cooperative organisation has to work more
effectively so that there is smooth and ongoing market
for the weavers. It has to follow more scientific and target
oriented methods from providing yarn to the procurement and
sales of handloom cloth at reasonable prices with the
objective of both competing in the open market rather than
through rebates scheme and also provide profitable margin to
the weavers.
The Karur district has a long history of handloom industry. Dyeing and printing as allied activities to weaving were familiar in some parts of the district. The number of handloom households and the number of looms have been increasing from time to time, but with regard to the data there are lot of shortages at the district level. This lack of data not only poses a problem to researcher, but also to the Government in arriving at meaningful policy. The Assistant Director of Handlooms should from time to time upgrade the data relating to the status of handlooms. The number of idle looms is quite large, they are more in the rural areas. The number of idle looms has to be minimised in order to mitigate the problem of unemployment and poverty in rural areas.

The average production of handloom cloth per day is very small as most of the weavers are in the lower ranges of production of cloth. As a result the average earnings also is low, lower in the rural areas than in the urban areas. There is need to examine the reasons for this low productivity levels and to ensure increase in productivity and the earnings.

The educational and economic background of weavers shown by respondents is very backward. The asset value of
all the types of weavers except the master weavers is below one lakh rupees. Further, there is gross inequality in the distribution of assets in the form of land, house, looms etc. among different weavers. This inequality naturally leads to differences in income. The master weavers have greater income than other types of weavers. This is reflected again in the differences between monthly expenditure among food, clothing and personal expenditure. It is necessary to reduce these inequalities within the same activity. For this, the type of weavers whose asset value is at low levels should be strengthened through provision of land, looms and houses and thus enable the more weaker sections to increase their average income. This will put all the weavers in the same and also upgraded plan of income and standard of living. The lack of proper housing facilities for the weavers has a bearing on the production, income and standard of living. As most of them depend upon pitlooms their weaving activity is badly affected during rainy season when the pits are filled with water and do not allow the weavers to carry out weaving. Provision of proper housing facilities or common weaving shed will relieve the weavers from handicap of housing and enable them for higher earnings and increase their levels of living.
In Karur district hired labour are also engaged in the weaving activity, in addition to the family labour of weavers. These hired labour come from other states also as Karur district is bordering with the states of Kerala and Karnataka. These hired labour need rehabilitation programme in the form of housing, education and health facilities. These have to be provided by the Government through cooperative organisations. Likewise women and children who form significant proportion of hired labour need special rehabilitation programmes. Most of the hired labour are semiskilled and unskilled. As such their average earning are low compared to regular weavers. Hence these hired labour should be given sufficient training and assistance. Other weavers are also need technical training though not in weaving in other aspects of dyeing, marketing, finance etc. The weavers in the district have an average working hours of about 8 hours per day and the annual working days are only 200-250 days only. That means the weavers do not have regular work in a year, due to shortage of raw material, shortage of power for lighting, lack of proper marketing facilities, and lack of proper housing facility. All these need careful study and attention by the Government. Efforts should be made to provide necessary infrastructural
facilities to ensure regular work for the weavers and enable them to lift themselves from the clutches of poverty.

The weavers in Karur District are purchasing yarn from outside the district and even from outside the state. The prices of yarn have been increasing at high rates whereas the prices of finished products have been increasing at lower rate. That is why, the profit margin has been declining throwing the weavers into losses and debt trap. To save these weavers is the immediate necessity. This can be done by Government through supply of yarn at reasonable and concessional price at appropriate time. The Rebate Scheme has not helped all the weavers except about one fifth of the cooperative weavers. The fact is that all the weavers need the supply of yarn at concessional rates so that the production of cloth becomes cost effective and thereby save the weavers from the vulnerable position. Even the availability of facilities for processing and dyeing of yarn are scarce. That is why, they purchase the raw material in frequent intervals depending upon the availability of cash with them. Sometimes the lack of finance deters them from purchasing yarn at the appropriate time and at reasonable price. That is why the Government should ensure the processing facilities particularly through cooperative
units. These facilities can be used by the cooperative weavers and also outsiders on payment basis. This will also strengthen financial position of the cooperative sector. Otherwise, the Government can provide the processed yarn, after bulk purchases, through quota system. The weavers are facing the problems with other raw materials also. The rising prices, the inadequate and untimely supply and poor quality are main problems encountered by the weavers. The price of chemicals and dyes have gone up by 40 to 60 per cent in recent years. Further the prices of colours have been increasing due to short supply owing to free exports. This also puts the weavers into teething troubles. The weavers can be saved from this by ensuring proper supply of chemicals and colours in terms of time, price and quantity. Otherwise, any shortage of these will put the weaving activity into standstill, throwing the weavers into clutches of poverty.

Handloom industry in the district has more fixed capital than the working capital. This peculiar situation of fixed capital being greater than the working capital in the handloom industry arises due to the fact that the working capital has been scarce. This is due to the non availability of institutional sources for the working capital. The weavers are depending more on their own source
for the fixed capital. This infers that the weavers with own capital alone are able to setup own looms. For the working capital the weavers depend own sources, moneylenders and also friends and relatives. Very few institutional sources are coming forward to provide working capital to the weavers. All the more, different schemes like share capital schemes, interest subsidy, cash credit have all benefited only the cooperative weavers, that too a segment of them. Even the programmes and schemes introduced by Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development were intended for the cooperative weavers and a small percentage of weavers under middlemen and labour weavers. Thus majority of the weavers are not covered or touched by the financial schemes. More important than these, the weavers could not appropriate the benefits of different financial schemes due to many reasons, like lack of awareness, inadequacy, delay in sanction and administrative reasons, corruption in its varied forms. Lack of security was also the main reason for not getting the financial support from the institutions. The shortage of working capital is the main reason for the sad plight of weavers, in general, as also shown by other Studies and Committees with regard to small scale industries. There is
need for urgent realisation that the working capital is the lifeblood of weaving industry. The Government should make adequate policy changes and direct the financial institutions to provide adequate support to the weavers.

There are possibilities for improving the techniques of production and reduce cost of production through increasing output, supply of raw material at reasonable price, provision of cheaper finances, modernisation of looms and rationalisation in pre-weaving and post-weaving processes. All these need financial and organisation support. The Government has to extend these on individual basis. The weavers should also be provided with the necessary technical training in modern methods of production with which they can better compete with modern mills and powerlooms.

The weavers in the district also face many problems in marketing of the handloom cloth. These problems are due to the seasonal demand for the handloom cloth, the existence of intermediaries, lack of storage facilities and lack of finance to wait for the reasonable price. All these aspects with regard to marketing need considerable attention by the Government. It has to maintain stocks by purchasing the finished cloth immediately of the production enabling
the weavers to continue the activity. Necessary marketing finance should be provided so that the weavers can wait for the reasonable price. The weavers in the district have expressed preference for subsidised inputs rather than rebate scheme. This is meaningful signal to the Government, because, subsidised inputs will reduce the cost of production and also ensure higher levels of production. This will put the weavers and handloom cloth in a competitive position. The handloom products have limited marketing outlet compared to mill and powerloom cloth. TNCO helps the cooperative weavers in marketing their products. Other weavers sell their products either directly or to the dealers. However, the weavers do not have their own marketing societies which can improve their bargaining power. TNCO adopts seasonal rebate scheme to sell the handloom products. But this digs at the profits or margin accruable to the society. The prices of handloom products have also not been competitive. As the cost of production is increasing, the weavers are compelled to enhance the price of the product. TNCO is also doing in the same. In this regard a commercial or business approach is needed so that the handloom products compete with other products. A well organised market network is necessary for the handloom products of all the weavers.
Handloom industry, compared to mill sector, does not have well organised institutional setup in production and marketing. The weavers are widely dispersed throughout the length and breadth of the country so also in the state and district. They are unable to come under one organisational umbrella which can protect their interest. Cooperatives of course serve the interest of the members to a limited extent. But the cooperatives do not cover all the weavers. Even the existing cooperatives are known for their weaknesses and even these are non-existing in real terms. There exist some ghost cooperative societies which are used by some vested interests to corner the benefits given to the societies by the Government and financial institutions. These ills of cooperative societies are striking at the roots of handloom industry. Still, the fact is that, cooperativisation and strengthening of cooperatives are the only answers to the problems faced by the weavers and handloom industry at large. The cooperative net should be spread to cover all the weavers.
It is expected that handloom production may reach 2,500 million yards, while powerloom production may amount to 1,100 million yards, in the Third Plan period. The target of 3,500 million yards set for the decentralised sector in the Third Plan is, therefore, likely to be achieved.

Out of the estimated requirements of 11,200 million yards for the Fourth Plan period, it could be reasonably expected that the handloom industry would be able to account for a production of nearly 3,000 million yards.

It is unlikely that the increase in the production of the powerloom sector in the Fourth Plan period would exceed 100 per cent.

The handloom industry may have to reconcile itself to an annual production of the order of 3,000 million yards as a long term measure.

The principal aim of handloom development should be to increase the earnings of weavers and it is impossible to achieve this as long as the majority of weavers confine their production to ordinary plain fabrics made of coarse counts of yarn.

Specificity and designed fabrics are the handloom weavers' monopoly and the demand for these types of fabrics is growing.
In the Fourth Plan period, an additional 20,000 looms in the cooperative sector should be assisted to change over to production of speciality and designed fabrics.

In course of time, the present handloom weaver producing grey cloth will either become a powerloom weaver or a weaver of coloured sarees or of speciality handloom fabrics, catering to sophisticated markets or for export.

Government should seriously examine the desirability of compelling mills to stamp the minimum count strength product of the yarn produced by them.

While a rise in the price of yarn to the extent of the rise in the cost of production cannot be denied to the mills, there is need for a more careful fixation and regulation of the same.

The handloom industry should be assured of a legitimate share of superfine yarn spun from imported cooton.

Prices of silk have been increasing during the last two years.

The Central Silk Board should finalise its proposal for distribution of indigenous and imported raw silk at steady prices and introduce it early in the interests of the handloom industry.
The proposed corporation for collection and marketing of tassar cocoons and yarn should come into being soon.

An A.U.provision of Rs.25 lakhs per year should be made for dyes and chemicals for distribution to the handloom industry.

The Gold Control Administration should examine the possibilities of relaxing the condition regarding the production of accounts of past consumption of gold by jari manufacturers.

The total number of looms in the co-operative fold at the end of the Third Plan period may roughly be around 14 lakhs or nearly 50 per cent of the known size of the industry.

The analysis of the working of the central and primary weavers co-operative societies indicates that the task of promotion and consolidation has to be pursued more vigorously by the All India Handloom Board and State Governments.

State Governments should take adequate steps to see that supply and marketing societies are converted as quickly as possible into production-cum-sales pattern.

Weavers co-operative societies should arrange to appoint Managers, who are administratively qualified and who have adequate knowledge of the textile trade.
The creation of a cadre of managers for weavers' societies is recommended and the All India Handloom Board should initiate steps for training of the personnel.

In the Fourth Plan, the central and primary societies should endeavour to increase their sales turnover to Rs.100 crores on the basis of current prices.

The primary societies should endeavour to double their paidup capital to Rs.9.5 crores.

State Governments should take vigorous steps to liquidate such of the dormant societies as are not fit to be revived and to revive the others.

If any State Government is satisfied that the scheme of industrial co-operative factories is a success, there should be no objection to the State implementing the scheme in the Fourth Plan.

Apex societies in general have been procuring only a fraction of the cloth produced by the primary societies.

Apex societies should aim at a turnover of Rs.25 crores in handloom cloth in the Fourth Plan period.

Apex societies should distribute yarn and other raw materials to the primaries to the extent of Rs.25 crores by 1970-71.
The owned resources of apex societies should come upto Rs.5 crores to enable them to get sufficient working capital.

Primary societies which are not affiliated to the apex society should be compulsorily affiliated to the apex society, and that each primary society should contribute at the rate of Rs.10 per loom to the share capital of the apex society.

It is vital for the progress of the cooperative movement that there should be greater integration between the apex society and primaries.

Apex societies should, as a rule, procure a minimum percentage of production from each and every affiliated primary society.

The consensus of opinion was that powerlooms and handlooms should work in the same co-operative societies.

The target for admission of woollen weavers and silk weavers in the co-operative fold in the Fourth Plan should be 5000 and 10000 respectively.

It is necessary to raise the share value to Rs.150 in the case of the woollen society and Rs.250 in the case of the silk society.

The pattern of assistance for share capital should be liberalised to 90 per cent loan.
Although the Reserve Bank Scheme of Handloom Finance has made considerable progress, only six States have taken advantage of it in large measure.

All states should vigorously take up the institutional financing scheme.

The All India Handloom Board may fix statewise programmes for drawal of funds under the Reserve Bank scheme in states where the scheme has not made any headway, in consultation with the State Governments and the Reserve Bank of India.

In West Bengal, Bihar and Assam efforts have to be made by the State Governments to strengthen the Central Co-operative Banks.

State Governments which have not yet appointed the full complement of audit and supervisory staff should do so on an urgent basis.

The proposalk for the appointment of a Deputy Manager for industrial co-operatives by Central Co-operative Banks should be implemented immediately.

The Reserve Bank's suggestion regarding the issue of a continuing guarantee for a period of three or five years is recommended for adoption by all State Governments.

All Central Financing agencies should issue working capital loan in the form of cash credit and charge only the concessional rate of interest from the societies.
The Government of India should announce the continuance of the schemes of interest subsidy and guarantee of losses for the entire Fourth Plan period well in advance.

Both silk and woollen handlooms have assumed importance in several areas and could prosper if institutional finance could be made available.

The Reserve Bank of India should bring silk and woollen handlooms also under section 17(2) (bb) and provide specific credits for them.

State Governments should take necessary steps to complete audit of weavers societies within six months of the close of the co-operative.

The accounting procedure adopted by the weavers societies should be studied and measures taken for ensuring uniformity and simplification.

The Reserve Bank of India should adopt a more liberal attitude in respect of providing working capital to apex societies.

State Governments should examine the position of their apex, societies and take necessary steps to strengthen their financial resources, if need be, by providing an outright grant.
The Reserve Bank of India should extend the concessional rate of interest applicable to advances for production and marketing to advances for yarn transactions also.

The limit of working capital may be fixed at Rs.750 per cotton or art silk loom, Rs.1000 per woollen loom and Rs.1500 per silk loom.

Pilot schemes of institutional financing should be introduced in Madras, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in respect of silk handlooms and in Mysore, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan in respect of woollen handlooms.

The Government of India may, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, extend the scheme of institutional financing to powerlooms in the co-operative sector.

The representatives of the handloom industry and State Governments were generally of the view that weavers outside the co-operative fold should be assisted.

The All India Handloom Board may provide appropriate assistance to the handloom industry outside the co-operative sector.
Manufacturers of handloom fabrics have organised themselves into associations for the purpose of securing quotas of yarn and other raw materials. This is a welcome trend, which should be encouraged.

The salutary principle of making no distinction between weavers inside the co-operative sector and outside in the matter of distribution of yarn and other raw materials should be adhered to.

The All India Handloom Board should pay a more, active role in promoting associations of manufacturers, in assessing their needs of raw material and in arranging supplies.

Steps should be taken to include handloom as one of the industries to be financed by State Finance Corporations.

The Madras Government's scheme for a separate Handloom Finance Corporation for the development of handloom industry outside the co-operative sector may be given a trial.

Factories for the manufacture of improved appliances may be set up by State Governments or in the private sector with assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act.

Handloom manufacturers and exporters outside the co-operative sector should be associated with the All India Handloom Board's programme of publicity and propaganda.
The facilities at the Institutes of Handloom Technology and the Weavers Service Centres are already open to all weavers both in the co-operative sector and outside, and this is a step in the right direction.

Measures such as supply of quality yarn at reasonable prices to exporters on priority basis may be continued in the Fourth Plan.

By and large, the reservation of fields of production has had the desired effect of helping handloom development. The existing field of reservation should, therefore, be continued.

Dhoties of counts 60s and below should be reserved exclusively for handlooms.

In practice, the prohibition of piece-dyeing of sarees by mills has not been of much benefit to the handloom industry and the lacuna in the orders governing this prohibition should be removed.

The production of coloured sarees, whether piece-dyed or yarn dyed, should be exclusively reserved for the handloom industry.

The concession given to composite mills to produce sarees of counts 36s and below should be withdrawn.

The existing concessions to powerlooms to produce reserved varieties should be withdrawn.
As assistance for selling units, a block grant of three per cent of the sales turnover in respect of handloom cloth and half per cent of the sales turnover in respect of powerloom cloth may be given to the co-operative sector on sales effected in excess of sales in 1961-62.

The Fabrics Society should take steps to increase its purchases from co-operative societies and from States which have not developed inter-State marketing.

The Fabrics Society should take steps to increase its purchases from co-operative societies and from states which have not developed inter-state marketing.

The Central Government may examine the possibilities of standing guarantee for working capital loans to be obtained by the Fabrics Society from institutional financing agencies.

The All India Handloom Board may, wherever necessary, take up marketing as one of its important activities in the fulfilment of plan targets, and actively assist, particularly the weaker states in respect of marketing.

The Board may consider setting up centres for the training of salesmen or assist State Government in setting up such centres.
At this stage of development of the handloom industry the discontinuance of the rebate scheme would not be advisable.

There should be a uniform rebate of four naye paise per rupee on sales of handloom cloth, both wholesale and retail.

Rebate should be given only in the case of sales of handloom cloth produced by weavers' co-operative societies from yarn supplied by such societies to their members.

Rebate may be allowed on artsilk or mixed handloom fabrics containing artsilk and cotton yarn without any limitation of price.

At least 25 per cent of the amount required for the construction of godowns should be given as grant.

The Board should devote particular attention to market research.

Intensive publicity and propaganda is necessary for developing the marketing of handloom cloth.

Concerted measures should be taken to recapture the traditional markets.

The question of providing a higher incentive for exports to Nigeria may be examined.

The question of reducing the floor prices fixed for Etawah Stripes may be examined.
Government should examine the possibility of introducing quality control and floor and ceiling prices to all varieties exported to non-traditional markets.

Exporters may avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation.

The programme of participation in international fairs may be intensified.

Requests for adequate exchange from exporters wishing to go abroad for export promotion should be considered favourably.

The principle that exports need to be assisted having been recognised, the criterion for the grant of incentives should be the need to maintain and promote exports of textiles as a whole. No distinction as between the mill sector and the handloom sector in this regard is justified.

Handlooms should get prorata share from out of the moneys collected by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation by way of premium on cotton allotments and the same should be placed at the disposal of the All India Handloom Board for financing handloom export promotion.

The question of increasing the incentive on export of tassar fabrics should be examined. Simultaneously, ceiling prices should be fixed for such fabrics.
It may be advisable to fix floor prices for garments made out of Bleeding Madras taking into account the prices fixed for the basic material.

It is worth considering whether the Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation may not be made the sole agency for developing exports while the Fabrics Society might devote all its attention to internal marketing.

The setting up of an Export Promotion Council for all handloom textiles would be of considerable assistance in developing exports.

The Fourth Plan target for exports should be Rs.20 crores per annum.

The position in regard to the use of take-up motion attachments has improved in recent years, but semi-automatic /pedal looms are popular only in a few States like West Bengal.

The recommendations made by the Technical Seminar on handloom industry held in March 1964 are endorsed.

State Governments should take vigorous steps to bring all dyehouses and finishing and processing plants into commission.

The pattern of assistance for jacquards, woollen carding machines and twisting machines may be liberalised to 75 per cent grant and 25 per cent loan.
The Evaset Plant sanctioned to Madras State should be installed expeditiously.

Pirn Winding machines should be sanctioned to weavers societies as an experimental measure.

In addition to one mechanised preparatory and processing unit already sanctioned to West Bengal, two plants may be sanctioned during the Fourth Plan period to two States one of which should be Madras.

The All India handloom Board should maintain active contact with the laboratories of the Textile Research Associations so that the fruits of their research may be made available to handloom industry.

60000 powerlooms should be introduced during the first two years of the Fourth Plan. The powerlooms should be given only to the handloom weavers in the co-operative fold.

All possible steps should be taken to see that no unauthorised powerlooms are set up.

State Governments should take all preliminary steps for the introduction of the powerlooms during the current plan itself.

The problem of finance for the setting up of cooperative spinning mills would be solved to a large extent if the recommendations of the Seminar on Cooperative
Spinning Mills are accepted by the Government of India and implemented.

Cooperative spinning mills should be placed in a special category entitled to priority in the matter of import of machinery.

Prices of yarn produced by cooperative spinning mills should be fixed on the basis of actual cost of production plus a reasonable percentage of profit subject to ceiling prices.

The existing co-operative spinning mills of 12000 spindles each should be expanded at the earliest possible time to 25000 spindles each and such expansion should have priority over the setting up of new spinning mills in the Fourth Plan.

It is expected that one million spindles will be in production in the cooperative fold at the end of the Fourth Plan.

The Weavers Service Centres have broken fresh ground in the field of designing for fabrics, in introducing improved weaving techniques and in quality dyeing and processing of handwoven cloth.

There should be one main unit of the Weavers Service Centre in every State in the Fourth Plan period.
Sub-units of weavers service centres should be set up in areas where handlooms are concentrated.

The useful work done by the Weavers Service Centre should be continued more vigorously and extensively.

The assistance of the Weavers' Service Centres may continue to be made available free of charge to weavers in the cooperative fold.

The training programme drawn up for the two Institutes of Handlooms Technology should be implemented.

It is suggested that the scheme of housing may be deleted from the programme.

The scheme of subsidy towards interest on loans sanctioned by the Government of India should be continued.

The recommendation of the All India Handloom Board in regard to introduction of a scheme of matching contribution to thrift fund is endorsed.

The All India Handloom Board should be constituted as a statutory body with adequate financial resources. The Board should be made responsible for the development of the handloom industry as well as the decentralised powerloom sector.
CONCLUSION

The handloom industry has been an integral part of an industrial, social and cultural system. It should not be reduced to the level of a mere vestige of our historical past, as it may happen if the industry is left to face rough weather situation through competition from the mills and the power looms on the one hand, and the multitudinal problems faced by the weaver-hero of the industry. The handloom industry can be given fair weather treatment by the Government through series of steps, measures and programmes which include strict reservation of viable items to the handloom sector, providing necessary infrastructure for the handloom industry, supply of raw materials in appropriate time at reasonable price, providing necessary capital, and strengthening marketing structure for the handloom products. Above all what is needed is a right approach to the industry from the view point of its place in the economy, its role towards to the weaver sections without any other skills, and its significance in the labour surplus economy. The handloom industry forms both warp and weft of cultural fabric of India. Cooperativisation of the weavers will strengthen the handloom industry and thereby save the Indian masses from poverty and unemployment.

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