CHAPTER - III

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRY

The handloom industry now faces severe competition from the powerloom sector. Consumers preference to mill-made cloths adds fuel to fire. Old and outmoded methods of production, and lack of effective organisation among the weavers also put the industry on a weak economic footing.

Governmental efforts to tackle the problems of handloom industry during the pre-independence era started in 1934 when the government announced an annual subsidy of ₹.5 lakhs for five years to the state governments for improving the industry.¹ This financial assistance though meagre had the advantage of arousing some interest in the co-operative organisation of the industry in certain parts of the country. In 1945 the first All India Handloom Board was constituted on the recommendations of the Fact Finding Committee appointed in 1941. The functions of the Board

¹. Fact Finding Committee on handloom and mills, 1941, p.3.
were, however, confined largely to (i) the question of supply of raw materials to the weavers, (ii) the method of marketing handloom fabrics and (iii) the administration of grants-in-aid.

During the period of World War II and a few years thereafter, the demand for handloom fabrics went up due to wartime requirements. But by 1952 the sale of handloom cloths declined sharply and the unsold stocks began to accumulate in the godowns of producers. This led to acute unemployment among weavers and heavy financial losses to producers. The gravity of the situation compelled the weavers to organise and agitate against the government. Consequently many trade unions were formed. Realising the gravity of situation Government of India took several steps in 1952 for the rehabilitation and consolidation of the handloom industry. The setting up of an All India Handloom Board in 1952 can be considered as a step in this direction. In 1953 a fund known as "Cess Fund" was created for subsidy to weaver's co-operative societies and for starting handloom sales organisations. But the Cess Fund was abolished in 1960. Since then the expenditure on handloom development schemes was met from the consolidated fund of the Government of India. The rebate scheme to promote sale of handloom cloths was introduced
In 1954. In 1957 the institutional finance scheme became operative by which the working capital needs of weaver's co-operative societies were met by Reserve Bank of India.

In spite of all such measures at national and state levels, the condition of the weavers did not improve satisfactorily. They had to live for about 100-150 days in a year without any earnings for want of either the supply of yarn or market to sell their products.

In pursuance of the decision of a Handloom Conference held in New Delhi on 20th September 1973, a High Powered Study team under the chairmanship of Sri B. Sivaraman was constituted by the Government of India. Its terms of reference included programmes for development of the handloom industry in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Measures for the maximum utilisation of export potential of handloom sector and for building infrastructure and providing adequate inputs including finance to this sector were the main aims of the study team. The Committee submitted its report in July 1974. The Committee's recommendations covered organisational structure, technical development, intensive development schemes, finance and credit facilities, other inputs, marketing, export problems etc.
The individual weaver, when financially too weak to undertake the responsibility of production and marketing, borrows money from dealers and masterweavers. It was observed during field investigation that smaller handloom weaving units depended mostly on dealers for their credit requirements. Under this system the master weavers or the cloth dealers either themselves or through their middlemen advanced materials to the weavers, paid them wages and received the finished goods. The master weavers gave large sums as advance to the poor weavers. The independent weavers were overworked when the demand for handloom cloth was brisk and during the slack season they got no employment but, could only draw from the sowcars for satisfying their financial needs. Such a system kept the weavers always indebted to the master weavers. The reasons for the attachment of the weavers to the master weavers or the commission agents are the following:

1. The financial weakness of the weavers to undertake the responsibility of production;

2. The risk of fluctuations in the prices of the goods produced;

3. The inability of the cottage weavers to have easy access to the distant markets;
4. the seasonal demand for handloom cloth requiring the blocking up of considerable amount of capital for a long time which the poor weavers are unable to do; and

5. the facility with which they can borrow from the master weavers and dealers.

The master weaver is the entrepreneur and the merchant rolled into one. He invests money in a handloom factory, purchases the raw materials and employs the weavers either on the basis of daily wage or piece rate. The master weaver markets the cloth in his own shop.

Handloom factories are chiefly found in the Malabar area. There is no difference in the business methods of the master weavers and the factory owners except in the fact that the handloom factory owner need not be a weaver while the master weaver himself is a weaver. In 1954 there were 259 handloom factories in Malabar which came under the Factories Act.\(^2\) Out of them 70 were in Chirakal taluk, 15 in Kottayam taluk, 7 in Kurumbanad taluk and 20 in Kozhikode taluk.\(^3\) But now it is revealed by the field investigation that majority of these handloom factories have disappeared owing to crisis in the industry.

\(^2\) Montaro A.D., op.cit., p.105.
\(^3\) ibid.
### Table 3.1  Size of Handloom Factories in the Malabar and South Kanara Districts, 1958.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range of looms</th>
<th>Malabar</th>
<th>South Kanara</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Factories</td>
<td>Percentage to total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 25</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 - 50</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 - 100</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101 - 200</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201 and over</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Montaro A.D., op.cit., p.106.

It is evident from table 3.1 that the largest number of handloom units are found within the size group of 26-50 looms in the Malabar area, while in South Kanara over 69 per cent of the units have less than 26 looms. This shows that the size of handloom units is larger in Malabar area. Moreover, factories within the size group of 1-50 looms account for 72.2 per cent and 94.2 per cent of the total factories in the selected areas of Malabar and South Kanara respectively. The size of the factories varies with the resources of the factory owners. Big factories employing hundreds of weavers are few in number, while small ones employing less than fifty persons are in
factories employing hundreds of weavers are few in number, while small ones employing less than fifty persons are in the majority. The weavers work in the factories during specified hours and are usually paid piece wages. One interesting feature in most of the big factories is that all the processes from the dyeing of yarn to the manufacture of cloth and its marketing are done under the same roof. The work in the factories is carried on by the coolie weavers who are the true proletariat of the weaving community.

As pointed out earlier, handloom industry in Kerala faced severe economic crisis in 1950s. Factory owners and master weavers found it difficult to carry on production and marketing on profitable lines. Weavers became unemployed without any earnings. This state of affairs forced the poor weavers to think in terms of co-operation. They began to organise themselves under co-operative societies. The structure of the co-operative societies with primary societies as the base and the central state society as the apex has given the co-operative movement stability in the state. Handloom weaver's primary co-operative societies are organised all over the state. Their main functions are :-

1. To raise the money required for the industry from the weavers by issue of shares and by borrowing from the Central Co-operative Bank of the district.
2. To make bulk purchase of raw materials and other appliances as may be required from time to time for the industry and distribute them among the shareholders to be woven into cloth.

3. To convert raw materials into finished products and sell them to the best advantage of the members and pay wages for such conversion in accordance with the prevailing rates.

4. To receive the finished products from members for sale so as to get a fixed margin of profit for the society.

5. To distribute the profits among the members at the end of the year by way of dividend, limiting the dividend to 6½ per cent of the paid up share capital of each member.

6. To perform all the other usual functions of a co-operative organisation such as setting apart 25 per cent of the profit towards a reserve fund (before giving dividends), to set aside 7½ per cent towards a common good fund and to distribute the remaining amount among the members by way of bonus on wages earned.

The poor weavers become the members of the society. Each member is asked to take a share in the society and it is required that each member should take a share of at least Rs. 25/- so as to make the society a business concern. If a member is not able to provide that amount the government gives a portion of the share money to him as loan. Usually,
the loan which the government gives is \( \frac{1}{4} \) of the specified amount of the share and it is repayable within a period of two years, i.e., if the share is specified at Rs.100/- the member is asked to pay Rs.25/- and the remaining Rs.75/- is given by government to him as loan. After the share capital is collected fully, the society is entitled to borrow from the Central Co-operative Bank an amount equivalent to eight times of its own capital. It is thus entitled to secure a large volume of working capital at a fair rate of interest e.g., 4\( \frac{1}{2} \) to 6 per cent per annum. With this capital the society can procure the raw materials on a wholesale basis and distribute them to the members for being woven into cloth.

The members are given wages by the society usually on the piece wage system. The society then takes the finished products from its members and sells them either in its own sales depot or in emporia run by the Central Co-operative Marketing Organisations. The sale price of the goods is fixed keeping generally 6\( \frac{1}{2} \) per cent of the cost of production as the margin of profit. Out of the profits the society meets its establishment cost, transport charges, taxes, contingencies etc. What is left over after meeting all this expenditure in a year constitutes that year's net profits. These are divided as follows:
Under the co-operative system of doing business, both the master weaver and the trader are eliminated. Handloom cloth is produced for the society which is a union of weavers. The profits taken over by the entrepreneur on the one hand and the trader on the other hand are thus preserved for the worker. Hence it is the co-operative method that is generally advocated as the best method of business for the small scale cottage industries.

Even though there are handloom weavers co-operative societies registered as early as 1924 a spurt in co-operative movement in handloom industry was witnessed only from 1953-54 when the newly formed All India Handloom Board decided to channelise all financial assistances through the handloom co-operatives. There were 535 handloom weaver's societies in the state as on 31st March 1981.4

However, among them, more than a hundred societies were facing liquidation. (See Appendix 3.1)

The Kerala State Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Society Limited, the State Apex Society (Hereafter HANTEX) is primarily responsible for the supply of raw materials to the Primary Weaver's Societies and for the marketing of their products. The main functions of HANTEX are:

1. to arrange for the purchase of raw materials and appliances necessary for the affiliated societies and their sale at reasonable prices;

2. to arrange for the supervision of production by primaries so as to ensure manufacture of goods according to specifications;

3. to arrange for the sale of finished goods produced by the affiliated societies

4. to give financial and other help to the societies

5. to maintain demonstration centres for educating the weavers in improved methods of weaving

6. to generally direct and co-ordinate the activities of primary societies

7. to dye yarn for its primary societies by running dye factories on modern lines; and
8. to do propaganda and engage in such other activities
   as may be conducive to the improvement of the industry.

The state society buys bulk quantities of yarn
from the open market and distributes it to the primary
societies through the regional depots of HANTEX. When the
depot intimates the primary societies to take delivery of
the yarn, the primary societies pay into the local co-operative
bank to the credit of the state society, the cost of
yarn plus the margin charged by the state society.

The paucity of funds for the purchase of yarn with
the state society is one of the causes for the low production
of handloom fabrics by the primaries. It is also due to the
dependence of the weavers on non-institutional agencies for
the purchase of yarn to some extent. It was revealed during
field investigation that weavers under the co-operatives are
not able to obtain sufficient capital requirements from the
co-operative societies. The commercial banks are reluctant
to finance handloom societies mainly because of the limited
resources of the societies to carry on day to day working.
In addition to this, there is risk involved in advancing
loans to primary societies because of the blocking up of
capital due to accumulation of unsold stocks.
A census of handlooms was conducted (1976) as per the guidelines issues by the Government of India in their order sanctioning the Intensive Development Projects and the export production projects. The census covered all the weaving units in the state. The unit being defined as a household or establishment when there was at least one working loom at the time of enumeration. The units were split up into two categories - weaving households and other establishments. Units put up in houses where at least one loom worked by a member of household was categorised as 'weaving household.' All the other units came under the second category.

As per the census, there are 23,738 handloom weaving units in the state out of which 21,681 are household units. Other units which numbered 2057 include factory type handloom weavers co-operative societies and private handloom weaving factories of different sizes. The district-wise distribution of units may be seen in Table 3.2.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Household units (Nos.)</th>
<th>Other units (Nos.)</th>
<th>Total (Nos.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Trivandrum</td>
<td>5074</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>5164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Quilon</td>
<td>1498</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alleppey</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kottayam</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Idukki</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ernakulam</td>
<td>1198</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Trichur</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Palghat</td>
<td>1498</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Malappuram</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kozhikode</td>
<td>3395</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>3632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Cannanore</td>
<td>6357</td>
<td>1574</td>
<td>7931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21681</strong></td>
<td><strong>2057</strong></td>
<td><strong>23738</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Handloom Census 1976, p.4.

From Table 3.2 it can be seen that the maximum number of units (7931) are in Cannanore district followed by Trivandrum (5164) and Kozhikode (3632) districts. There are only 5 units in Idukki district. Even though there are handloom units in all the districts and in almost
all the taluks in the state there are some places of concentration of the industry. In Cannanore taluk there are 3671 handloom units which is more than 46 per cent of the units in the district.  

Different varieties of cloth for domestic consumption and foreign markets are produced in the handloom sector in Kerala. While the varieties like double veshties, neriatrus etc., using higher counts of yarn are generally produced in southern parts of the state, the export varieties, like furnishings, crepe etc., using lower counts of yarn are produced in northern districts. Weaving of polyester blended fabrics in the handloom sector in Kerala was introduced in 1977-78. Handloom polyester shirtings are very popular in the market. The scheme for the production of janatha cloth in handloom sector with central Government subsidy was introduced in 1975-76 and 52.5 lakhs square metres of cloth were produced till the end of 1980-81.  

The production of handloom cloth in co-operative sector during the year 1979-80 was 28.9 million metres worth Rs.12.8 crores. As no recorded data regarding the

7. ibid., p.17.
production in private sector was available, the production is estimated based on the general production trend and number of looms in private sector. The production details are furnished in Appendix 3.2.

As already mentioned the State Handloom Apex Society is the main agency for the marketing of the products of the primary societies. However, only 40 per cent of the products in the co-operative sector is marked by the Apex Society. (See Appendix 3.3)

The primary societies have to make their own arrangements for the marketing of the remaining products either by local sales or through other traders. Handloom fabrics and ready-made garments have worldwide markets, though not very steady. Kerala handloom goods to the tune of ₹.25 crores are annually exported to nearly 40 countries all over the world. However, the bulk of the Kerala handloom goods are exported by the traders operating in cities like Bombay, Bangalore, Delhi etc. Direct export by the exporters in Kerala during the year 1979-80 was to the tune of ₹.3.7 crores. (See Appendix 3.4).

8. ibid.
9. ibid., p.3.
There are 11 public sector spinning mills, including 2 co-operative spinning mills and 915 private mills producing hank yarn in the state. However, the State Handloom Industry has to depend on the mills in other states to meet its requirements of different counts of yarn.

Establishments other than Weaving Households

Out of a total number of 2057 units other than weaving households 1574 are in Cannanore district. This is 76.5 per cent of the state total. In Kozhikode district also there are considerable number of weaving establishments other than household units, total number of which comes to 237. There are only 90 such units in Trivandrum district.

Based on the nature of ownership, weaving establishments are classified into 7 groups for the purpose of analysis. They are:

1. Proprietary.
2. Partnership.
3. Industrial Co-operatives.
5. Educational Institutions.
6. Charitable Institutions and
7. Others

10. Ibid., p.4.
Out of 2057 establishments, 1626 units come under proprietary ownership. It is 79.05% of the total establishments. 258 establishments are under partnership and 92 are industrial co-operatives. There are 15 collective weaving centres in the state. There are also 36 units working as educational institutions and 19 under charitable institutions. The ownership of 11 establishments are categorised as others.

More than 78 per cent of the establishments under proprietary ownership are in Cannanore district. Also the maximum number of establishments under partnership is in Cannanore district. There are 249 such units in Cannanore which accounts for 96.5 per cent of the total units under partnership. The weaving units under industrial co-operative societies are comparatively evenly distributed. However, the maximum number of units under this category is also in Cannanore district. There are 28 industrial co-operatives which is 30.44 per cent of the total number is in Cannanore district. But this comes to only 1.78 per cent of the total establishments. There are 15 weaving industrial co-operatives in Quilon district, which constitutes 16.31 per cent of the total under this category.

There are 36 weaving educational institutions and exactly half of them are in Cannanore district. Eighteen
units are distributed in the remaining districts. There are 19 charitable institutions other than household units, which are located in Quilon (5), Alleppey (4), Ernakulam (7), and Kozhikode (3) districts.

Only about a quarter of the total number of the establishments are registered under Factories Act. More than 87 per cent of the total registered units (491) are in Cannanore district. Out of the remaining 12.22 per cent units 8.76 per cent are in Kozhikode district and 3.46 per cent are scattered in the remaining 6 districts.

Workers in Handloom Industry

For the purpose of analysis the workers directly engaged in the production are classified into 4 categories. They are winders, warpers, weavers and others.

Winder is a person who rewinds yarn from hanks or cone on bobbins.

Warping winds the yarn on beams from bobbins.

Weaver is the person who operates the handloom for the production.

Goiting, tie up, dyeing, sizing and bleaching etc., are the works of the workers classified as 'others'.
can be seen that there is no wide difference in the ratio of different categories of workers in different districts. Out of 71,027 members of the weaving households who are engaged in this cottage industry 61,023 are self employed, that is, employed in their own household units and 4425 are employed in other units.\textsuperscript{11} (See Appendix 3.6) The remaining 5579 members are not actually doing any work at the time of census even though they are familiar with different items of work connected with industry.

The total workers in the household units consist of two categories viz., household members and employees. There are 88,985 workers in the household units, of this 61,023 are members of the households and 27,962 are employees. The number of members of the households and employers in household units under different category of workers and their corresponding percentage of the total workers in the households are presented in table 3.4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of workers</th>
<th>Winders</th>
<th>Warpers</th>
<th>Weavers</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Household Members</td>
<td>23357</td>
<td>78.02</td>
<td>1379</td>
<td>61.67</td>
<td>35752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Employees</td>
<td>6579</td>
<td>21.98</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>38.33</td>
<td>20204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>29936</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>2236</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>55956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Handloom Census, 1976, p.11.
From Table 3.4, it is evident that 31.43 per cent of the total workers in the household units are employees. They do not have looms and other appliances. They are working on the looms of other household members. It is revealed from the field investigation that majority of the looms are idle. The number of employees is the lowest in the category of winders. In the other three categories more than one-third of the total workers are employees. 33.64 per cent of the total workers in the household units are winders and 62.88 per cent and the remaining 0.97 per cent of workers are doing other miscellaneous items of work.\textsuperscript{13}

More than half of the total workers in the household units are in Cannanore and Trivandrum districts, 29.59 per cent in Cannanore district and 27.76 per cent in Trivandrum district.\textsuperscript{14} Maximum number of male workers are in Cannanore district (38.58\%) followed by Kozhikode district (21.77\%).\textsuperscript{15}

Workers in Establishments other than Weaving Households

There are 2057 handloom units other than weaving households in the state which employ 30167 workers –

\textsuperscript{12} Handloom Census, 1976; p.17.
\textsuperscript{13} ibid.
\textsuperscript{14} ibid., p.18.
\textsuperscript{15} ibid., p.19.
21324 males, 7458 females and 1385 children. Their percentage to the total number of workers in the industry comes to 26.9 per cent only. Number of different categories of workers and their percentage to the total under this sector are furnished below. (Table 3.5)

Table - 3.5  Statement Showing Number of Different Categories of Workers and their Percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of workers</th>
<th>Percentage to the Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Winders</td>
<td>6659</td>
<td>22.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Warpers</td>
<td>1394</td>
<td>4.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Weavers</td>
<td>20182</td>
<td>66.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Others</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>6.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30167</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Handloom Census 1976; p.17.

The proportion of winders among the workers in other establishments (22.08%) is much less than that of winders among the workers in household units. More than two-third of the total workers in other establishments are in Cannanore district (20746). Kozhikode and Trivandrum

16. ibid., p.17.
districts stand next, in that order with 3877 and 2057 workers respectively. Among the total number of workers in the handloom industry, only 125 members belong to the scheduled castes and tribes - 50 of them are in household units and 70 in other establishments. 17

**Total Looms in the State**

The handlooms in the state are of two types - pit looms and frame looms. More than 70 per cent (70.16%) of the total looms in the state are in household units, the rest being in factory type establishments. 22,548 looms are in co-operative sector, 18,098 looms being in household units and 4450 looms in other establishments. Chart 3.1 shows the total number of looms in the State.

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17. ibid.
Chart 3.1  Distribution of Looms in Kerala

Total Looms (90030)

Looms in household units (63169)

- Co-operative sector (18098)
  - Pit looms (7670)
  - Frame Looms (10423)

- Private Sector (45071)
  - Pit Looms (219)
  - Frame Looms (4231)

Looms in other Establishments

- Co-operative sector (4450)
  - Pit Looms (219)
  - Frame Looms (4231)

- Private Sector (22411)
  - Pit Looms (311)
  - Frame Looms (22100)
Of the total 90,030 looms 17,847 are pit looms and 72156 are frame looms. More than 34 per cent (34.9%) of the total looms are in co-operative sector and 14.79 per cent of the looms in private sector are pit looms. The percentage of pit looms to the total looms in the household units and other establishments are 27.45 and 1.97 respectively. But now a large number of looms in household units have come into the fold of co-operative sector.

More than 81 per cent of the total looms in the state are concentrated in 3 districts viz., Cannanore, Kozhikode and Trivandrum. Total number of looms in Cannanore district is 40,144, Trivandrum district stands second with 19,234 looms followed by Kozhikode district with 14,318 looms. There are 23,953 looms in Cannanore taluk, which exceeds the total number of looms in any other district. Panchayats having more than 250 looms can be considered as places of concentration. There are 97 such panchayats in the state having more than 250 looms. Table 3.6 shows the number of units, number of looms and average number of looms per unit in each district.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Weaving Households</th>
<th>Other Establishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of units</td>
<td>No. of looms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Trivandrum</td>
<td>5074</td>
<td>17479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Quilon</td>
<td>1498</td>
<td>3080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Alleppey</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kottayam</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Idukki</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Ernakulam</td>
<td>1188</td>
<td>2270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Trichur</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Palghat</td>
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<td>4222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Malappuram</td>
<td>544</td>
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</tr>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Kozhikode</td>
<td>3395</td>
<td>11169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Cannanore</td>
<td>6357</td>
<td>20359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State</td>
<td>21681</td>
<td>63169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of Handloom 1976, p.18.
From Table 3.6 it can be seen that the average number of looms per household unit in each district ranges from 1 to 3.4 and the state average is 2.9 looms per household unit. The highest average number of looms per household is in Trivandrum district, Kozhikode and Cannanore districts stand in the second and third place respectively in this respect. Considering the average number of looms for other establishments Quilon district stands first with 21.7 looms followed by Trivandrum (19.5) and Palghat district (14.7). The average number of looms per establishment in Cannanore district is 12.6. The average for the state is 13.1 looms.