

PREFACE

Decentralized powerloom sector, which accounts for more than two-third of the fabric production in the country, has been the backbone of our textile industry. It is estimated that around one-fourth of the powerlooms are located in the state of Tamilnadu in specific geographical clusters. The entire powerloom sector in the country, including Tamilnadu, is at crossroads today. Globalization of trade under WTO framework and economic liberalisation has posed new challenges and opportunities to the textile industry. An urgent strategy involving the government –industry partnership is the need of the hour to exploit the emerging opportunities.

The government has initiated a number of measures to support the decentralised powerloom industry, which include: TUFs for technology up-gradation, modernisation of PSCs, establishment of CAD centres, establishment of PDEXCIL: reduction of duties on machinery, Group Workshed Scheme etc. However, given the complexities/problems associated with the basic structure and supply chain, the decentralised powerloom industry has not been able to modernise itself adequately.

In view of Tamilnadu's importance in the powerloom sector, the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has decided to study the industry in a comprehensive manner in order to understand the issues which would enable improvement of strategy for modernisation of this sector. Accordingly, the Textiles Committee has taken up the study on sample basis to assess the status of decentralised powerloom sector in the country. Under this sample study, around 1200 representative units located in 16 powerloom clusters in Tamilnadu were covered and based on the information collected, the technology, product, marketing, skills and management practices etc. have been profiled in this report-“Status of Powerloom Sector in Tamilnadu”.

I trust this report will be used extensively by the Government as well as trade & industry in the ongoing process of modernisation of the decentralised sector.



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