

CHAPTER - IV

MAIN FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

C H H P A P T E R - VFINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

- 1) It has been found that majority of powerloom workers in Solapur City are illiterate. This may be due to the nature of work which is almost of repetitive type. It does not require any sophisticated skills. But at the same time, it can be fairly assumed that educated work force can be come a productive work force. Hence it may be suggested that Workers' Education Programme may be commenced with adequate emphasis on functional literacy programmes. Secondly we may prevent Child Labour Force so that at least the children of workers will get an opportunity of primary and secondary level education.
  
- 2) It has been found in our empirical survey that powerloom workers have families of big size wherein the average number is 4 to 5 members. All of them stay in the same room. This large size of the family certainly affects their standard of living. There seems to be completely apathetic attitude of workers towards family planning programmes. It may be suggested that this has to be changed gradually and reason-

nable awareness may be generated amongst worker regarding family planning programmes.

- 3) The Minimum Wages Act of 1948 was not applicable to powerloom workers upto 1971. The appropriate Govt. is the State Govt. gave effect to this Act in the year 1971 but its implementation was delayed upto 1984. In this year after a long drawn strike, the effect was given to the Minimum Wage Act of 1948. The powerloom owners rejected this move and went to the Court. Till now, workers have been denied their legitimate demand of Minimum Wages since the matter is sub-judice.
- 4) The powerloom workers in Solapur City have been deprived of all the legitimate social security benefits under the Factories Act of 1948, P.F. Act of 1952 and Employee State Insurance Act of 1948. The powerloom owners have manipulated the stipulated number of workers in order to escape from the provisions of the various Acts. The powerloom unit generally consists of 4 looms on which maximum 8 workers can work. It may be suggested that Govt. may make appropriate steps to review the concerned legislation and amend them suitably to make them applicable to

powerloom workers. The powerloom workers need not be deprived of social security benefits like P.F., Gratuity etc. under some pretext and the others. It requires thorough and in-depth study about the prevalent practices in Powerloom Industry.

- 5) There is a practice of seeking fresh registrations amongst powerloom owners. This is done with a view to escaping from the provisions of the various social security legislations. It is suggested here that this practice of granting fresh registrations under some fake name may be stopped. It should be made mandatory for the powerloom owners to give reasons for the closure of their units. These unit owners need not be given fresh registration.
- 6) It was reported that medical facilities available to powerloom workers are not adequate and reasonable. They get these facilities from Govt. dispensary. Moreover preventive medical facilities are required for occupational diseases like T.B. and Asthma. It is therefore suggested that these facilities of preventive medicine may be extended for powerloom workers by the State Govt. through

Employee State Insurance dispensaries. Secondly the periodic check-ups may be arranged for the workers - so that certain occupational diseases may be detected in time.

- 7) The conditions of housing of powerloom workers is certainly far from satisfactory. They almost like in Zoppadpatties with inadequate civic amenities like drinking water, drainage etc. It is therefore suggested that the State Govt. may initiate schemes of low and subsidised housing with adequate financial participation from both the workers and their employees. The 'Ghurkul Scheme' which has been successfully implemented in some part of the city may be extended for the benefits of all the powerloom workers in Solapur City.
- 8) The economic conditions of workers have become worse because of the New Textile Policy Announced by the Govt. in the year 1986. The main thrust of this policy was on powerloom sector and a massive programme of modernisation was expected. But under this pretext many of the powerloom units were closed



down. As a result of this policy, workers were thrown out of jobs, thus aggravating the situation further. The continuous supply of yarn is a crucial factor in the running of powerlooms and the Govt. may take special steps to supply the quality yarn at reasonable prices to the powerlooms.