

:: P R E F A C E ::

Three years ago when I came to the powerloom town of Ichalkaranji and joined my services as a Junior lecturer in Commerce at A.S.C. College, I found myself in an alien atmosphere where the daily language of the common people was that of prices of yarn, shortage of yarn, inadequate quality of yarn, low demand of cloth, alongwith the usual talk of any industrial centre about powershortage, strike and lock-outs etc. Going through the local newspapers, I found it surprising that the considerable coverage was given to the yarn-rates and its related problems. While strolling through the heart of the city, I was surprised to find big crowds of people, blocking the way and animatedly discussing and debating something, which roused my curiosity. Coming from different background, I was naturally attracted to the field of textile. My discussion with powerloom owners with whom I was acquainted in due course made me think of the burning problem of the difficulties in the procurement of yarn in the local market. My pre-occupation with the burning problem led me to do some research in the "Problems of procurement of yarn to the powerloom industry at Ichalkaranji " for my M.Phil. degree.

This dissertation is based on the research study carried out on Ichalkaranji Textile Industry as a partial fulfilment of the Master of Philosophy course in Commerce, conducted by Shri Chh. Shahu Central Institute of Business

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Development can never be a smooth process. The pattern and process of the growth of powerloom and textile industry in Ichalkaranji is commendable in many respects, inspite of its short comings. The textile town of Ichalkaranji can boast of 50,000 powerlooms, 130 sizings, 14 processings, 4 spinning mills and a vast number of related units like widening, dyeing, printing etc. which have an admirable record of continuous growth and prosperity.

It is, however, regretted that in spite of its prosperity and accelerated rate of growth in the production of fabrics for which the centre of Ichalkaranji has rightly acquired its name and fame, the powerloom town has a long way to go in attaining self-reliance in the procurement of yarn to meet its needs. The growth of the textile industry has not kept pace with the demand of the raw-material.

Self-reliance in the procurement of yarn is the basic need of the hour, as the whole textile industry almost relies on the yarn obtained from the outside markets controlled by only a handful of traders who have monopolised the whole industry. The traders of yarn call a tune to which the helpless powerloom owners have to dance.

The gravity of situation is further accentuated by

the fact that more than 85% of yarn procured at the centre is supplied from other states like A.P., Kerala and Karnataka. The industry is in danger of receiving a considerable set-back in the event of the change in textile policies of the state Governments.

This is an impartial and objective approach to the problem, that I had attempted to put forward a number of humble suggestions with a view to improving the present condition of the textile industry in general and establishing regulated market in yarn at Ichalkaranji in particular.

It has been my endeavour to lay bare the facts as I understand them, dispassionately, impartially, and without ulterior intentions. I shall feel amply rewarded if my humble attempts set the reader thinking of the gravity of the problem of the procurement of yarn at Ichalkaranji, and the government and the industrialists concerned take the right move in the proper direction.

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