

The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985
No. 22 of 1985

Act2485

[29th March, 1985]

An Act to provide for reservation of certain articles for exclusive production by handlooms and for matters connected therewith.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Thirty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions. - In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Advisory Committee" means the Advisory Committee constituted under section 4;

(b) "handloom" means any loom, other than powerloom;

(c) "manufacturer" includes the producer and processor, and the expression "manufacture" shall be construed accordingly;

(d) "powerloom" means" a loom which is worked by power as defined in clause (g) to section 2 of the Factories Act, 1948;

(e) "processor" means a person engaged in any ancillary process subsequent to the production of cloth, such as dyeing, bleaching, mercerising, calendering, embroidering, printing, raising, cloth embossing or any other finishing process, but does not include a producer, and the expression "process" shall be construed accordingly;

(f) "producer" means a person engaged in the production of cloth on any loom, other than handloom, and shall include a person.

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who owns, works or operates on, a loom for the production of cloth, and the expression "produce" shall be construed accordingly.

3. Power to specify articles for exclusive production by handlooms. -

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Central Government may, if it is satisfied, after considering the recommendations made to it by the Advisory Committee,

that it is necessary so to do for the protection and development of the handloom industry, by order published in the Official Gazette, direct, from time to time, that any article or class of articles shall, on and from such date as may be specified in the order (hereinafter referred to as the date at reservation), be reserved for exclusive production by handlooms.

(2) Every order published under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the order or both Houses agree that the order should not be made, the order shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that order.

4. Constitution of Advisory Committee. - (1) The Central Government shall, with a view to determining the nature of any article or classes of articles that may be reserved for exclusive production by handlooms, constitute an Advisory Committee consisting of such persons as have, in the opinion of that Government, the necessary expertise to give advice on the matter.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall, after considering the following matters, communicate its recommendations to the Central Government, namely:-

- (a) the article or class of articles which is being produced by handlooms for mass consumption;
- (b) the article or class of articles which is being produced traditionally by handlooms;
- (c) the level of employment likely to be generated by the production of the article or class of articles referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) exclusively by handlooms;
- (d) the protection of interests of persons engaged in the handloom industry and the need for the continued maintenance of the industry and
- (e) such other matters as the Advisory Committee may think fit.

5. Prohibition of production of articles exclusively reserved for handlooms. - Where an order has been made under section 3 reserving any article or class of articles for exclusive production by handlooms, such article or class of articles shall not, on and from the date of reservation, be produced by any loom, other than handloom:

Provided that any person who, immediately before the date of reservation of any article or class of articles, was engaged in the production of such article

or class of articles in any loom, other than handloom may continue to be so engaged till the expiry of three months from the date of such reservation.

6. Power to call for Information or to furnish samples. - (1) The Central Government may, by order, require any manufacturer to furnish, for the purposes of this Act,-

- (a) such information in his possession with respect to any manufacturing activity or business carried on by him or by any other person to any officer of authority specified by it in such form and within such period as may be specified by that Government in the order;
- (b) such samples of any article manufactured by him or by any other person for inspection by such officer or authority, at such and within such period as may be specified by it in the order.

(2) Where any order has been issued to any, manufacturer under sub-section (1), he shall comply with such order.

7. Power to enter and inspect. - Any officer authorised by the Central Government (hereinafter referred to as the authorised officer) may enter, at all times, any place or premises of any manufacturer in which any textile articles are stored, kept or exposed for sale and may require the production for inspection of any books of account, registers, records or other documents kept therein and ask for such information relating, to the manufacture, storage or keeping for sale of any such articles or to any powerlooms that may be found in such place as he may think fit for the purposes of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

8. Power to search and seize. - (1) If the authorised officer has any reason to believe that,-

- (a) any article or class of articles specified in any order made under section 3 is being produced in any place in contravention of such order; or
- (b) any article or class of articles produced in contravention of such order are secreted in any place; or
- (c) any article or class of articles is liable to forfeiture under this Act, he may enter into and search such place or premises for such article, or class of articles or any powerloom which in the opinion of the authorised officer may have been used for the production of such article or class of articles.

(2) Where, as a result of any search made under sub-section (1), any article or class of articles or any powerloom has been found and the authorised officer has reason to believe that such article or class of articles has been produced, or such powerloom has been used for the production of any article or class of articles, in contravention of any order made under section 3, he

may seize such article, class of articles or powerloom, together with the package, covering or receptacle, if any, in which such article or class of articles is found:

Provided that where It is not practicable to seize any article or powerloom, the authorised officer may serve on the owner of the article or the powerloom, as the case may be, an order that he shall not remove, part with, or otherwise deal with, the article or powerloom except with the previous permission of such authorised officer.

(3) Where any article or powerloom is seized under sub-section (2) and no prosecution has been launched within six months of such seizure, it shall be returned to the person from whose possession it was seized.

(4) The authorised officer may also seize any documents or things which, in his opinion, will be useful for, or relevant to, any proceeding under this Act.

(5) The person from whose custody any documents are seized under sub-section (4) shall be entitled to make copies thereof or take extracts therefrom in the presence of the authorised officer.

(6) If any person legally entitled to the documents or things seized under sub-section (4) objects, for any reason, to the retention by the authorised officer of the documents or things, he may make an application to the Central Government stating therein the reasons for such objection and requesting for the return of the documents or things.

(7) On receipt of an application under Sub-section (6), the Central Government may, after giving the applicant an opportunity of being heard, pass such order as it may think fit.

9. Search and seizure to be made in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. - The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, relating to searches and seizures shall, so far as may be, apply to every search or seizure made under this Act.

10. Penalty for contravention of orders made under section. - Whoever produces any article or class of articles in contravention of an order made under section 3,-

- (a) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees per loom by which the said article or class of articles is produced, or with both, and in the case of a continuing contravention, with an additional fine which may extend to five hundred rupees per loom for every-day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention and
- (b) the article or class of articles in respect of which the order has been contravened or any powerloom by the use of which such order is contravened, including any package, covering or receptacle in which

the article or class of articles 1s found, shall be forfeited to the Central Government:

Provided that if the court is of opinion that it is not necessary to direct forfeiture in respect of any of the articles, powerloom or any package, covering or receptacle, it may, for reasons to be recorded, refrain from doing so.

11. False Statement. - If any person, -

- (a) when required by any order made under section 6 to furnish any information or sample, makes any statement or furnishes any information which is false in any material particular and which he knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, to be false or does not believe it to be true, or fails to furnish such sample or damages or destroys any article from which such sample was required; or
- (b) when required by the authorised officer under section 7 to produce any books of account, registers, records or other documents, fails to produce, or damages or destroys any such books, registers or other documents he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or with both.

12. Attempt and abetment. - Any person who attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of any order made under section 3 shall be deemed to have contravened that order.

13. Offences by Companies. - (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation. - For the purposes of this Section,-

(a) "company" means any body corporate and includes a co-operative society registered or deemed to be registered under any law for the time being in force, a firm or other association of individuals; and

(b) "director", in relation to a firm means a partner in the firm.

14. Offences to be recognizable. - Notwithstanding anything contained in the code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, every offence punishable under this Act shall be cognizable.

15. Power to delegate. - The Central Government may by order direct that the powers exercisable by it under any provision of this Act other than the power to make orders under section 3 or under section 18 or to make rules under section 19, shall in relation to such matters and subject to Such conditions if any, as may be specified in the direction, be exercisable also by-

(a) such officer or authority subordinate to the Central Government; or

(b) such state Government or such officer or authority subordinate to a State Government, as may be specified, in the direction.

16. Power of Central Government to give directions. - The Central Government may give such directions as it may consider necessary to a State Government as to the carrying into execution of the provisions of this Act.

17. Protection of action taken in good faith. - No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government, State Government or any officer or employee of the Central Government or of any State Government or any authorised officer for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or an order made under section 3.

18. Power to exempt. - (1) If the Central Government is satisfied that the demand for any article or class of articles reserved by an order under section 3 outside India is such that it is not possible for the handloom industry to meet such demand or any such article or class of articles is required to be produced for purposes of research or for the development of markets for such article or class of articles or of the handloom industry generally, it is necessary or expedient so to do, it may, by order published in the Official Gazette, exempt such article or class of article from the operation of such order, and permit such article or class of articles to be produced by any powerloom solely for the purposes of export or for research by such institutions as may be specified in the order.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both

Houses agree in making any modification in the order or both Houses agree that the order should not be made, the order shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that order.

19. Power to make rules. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in One session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the Session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

Ministry of Textiles

Order

The 3rd September, 2008

S.O. 2160(E). - In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) 3 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 (22 of 1985, and in supersession of the order of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Textiles, number S.O. 557(E), dated the 26th July, 1996, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government, being satisfied, after considering the recommendations made to it by the Advisory Committee that it is necessary so to do for the protection and development of the handloom industry, hereby directs that the article or class of articles specified in column (2) of the Table below, shall with immediate effect, be reserved for exclusive production by handlooms upto the range specified in column (3), namely:-

Table

SI. No.	Article class of articles	Range reserved for exclusive production by handlooms
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Saree	A Saree is a fabric made out of hundred percent. Cotton yarn or hundred percent, silk yarn or in any combination thereof and includes a saree made in blends or union with up-to forty-five percent, by weight

		<p>of man-made fibres or yarn in combination with cotton yarn or silk yarn and is characterised by one or more of the following.-</p> <p>(i) has extra warp and/or extra weft design in the border and/or heading and/or body, including buttas containing any yarn including metallic or metallised yarn or zari or any combination of thereof;</p> <p>(ii) has a solid woven border;</p> <p>(iii) has tie and dyed yarn warp - wise and/or weft-wise, but does not include-</p> <p>(i) Crepe, chiffon, chinon, georgettes and cotton voile saree;</p> <p>(ii) grey or bleached silk saree having a border in extra warp design.</p>
2.	Dhoti	<p>Dhoti is a fabric made out of hundred percent, cotton yarn or hundred percent silk yarn or in any combination thereof and includes a dhoti made in blends, or union with upto forty-five percent by weight of man-made fibres or yarn in combination with cotton yarn or silk yarn which has an extra war design of more than 14 mm width including selvedge in the border, and/or extra weft heading of more than 14mm width.³</p>
3.	(a) Towel and Gamcha	<p>A towel is a fabric woven in plain, mat, twill, honey-comb, huckaback or a combination of these weaves with border and heading and includes.-</p> <p>(A) a towel-</p> <p>(i) made of cotton or blends of cotton with any other fibre;</p>

		<p>(ii) made in different dimensions;</p> <p>(iii) which may be white or coloured;</p> <p>(iv) which may contain decorative design when produced on jacquard; and</p> <p>(v) with mat weave, commonly known as Erazha Thorthu in Kerala and Erazha Thundu in Tamil Nadu;</p> <p>(B) Gamcha</p>
	(b) Angavastram	<p>Angavastram is a grey or bleached cloth of plain weave with border with extra warp in the borders and includes Angavastram-</p> <p>(i) manufactured from any natural fibre including silk (except) spun silk) or man-made fibre or any combination thereof;</p> <p>(ii) which contains white or coloured yarn or metallic or metallised yarn or zari or any combination thereof, in its border or headings;</p> <p>(iii) which has a width ranging from 70 cms. to 100 cms. Including selvedges; and</p> <p>(iv) which has length varying from 1.50 meters to 3.00 meters;</p>
4.	Lungi	<p>Lungi is fabric made out of cotton yarn or art silk yarn or in any combination thereof, having a width of 1.10 cms, or above and 64 ends or above per inch and woven in check and/or stripe design using coloured yarn to form check and/or stripe pattern.</p>
5.	Khes, Bedsheet, Bedcover, Counterpane, Furnishing	<p>Khes, bedsheet, bedcover, counterpane and furnishings (including tapestry, upholstery), by whatever name they may be called in different parts of the country, and</p>

	(including tapestry, upholstery)	includes a double cloth made out of cotton yarn and/or art silk yarn and/or tie and dyed yarn or any yarn in combination thereof, which is woven with design pattern and/or a repeat of design upto 200 ends, irrespective of count and dimensions, but does not include a plain sheeting woven only in plain, twill, satin or sateen weaves.
6.	Jamakkalam Durry or Durret	Jamakkalam Durry or Durret made out of cotton yarn or art silk yarn or wool yarn or jute yarn or in any combination thereof, using in the case of cotton yarn or in any combination thereof, using in the case of cotton yarn, coarse count of single yarn of upto 20 ^s or folded/plies of resultant count upto 10 ^s , or other equivalent count and in the case of art silk yarn or wool yarn or jute yarn, upto 26 ends per inch, woven with plain weave or twill weave or in combination thereof, in any dimension. Explanation. - The count of cotton yarn upto 10 ^s is equivalent to the count of worsted yarn upto 15 ^s or wollen yarn upto 32.8 ^s or count of art silk yarn not less than 530 ^d denier or count of jute yarn upto 1.7 lbs.
7.	Dress Material	Dress Material including Mashru cloth made out of cotton yarn and/or silk yarn (including spun silk) and/or art silk yarn and/or tie and dyed yarn or in any combination thereof, woven with extra weft design in the border and/or body irrespective of count and dimensions and includes Telia Rumal and Real Madras Handkerchief.

8.	Barrack Blankets and Kambal or Kamblies	<p>(a) Barrack blanket means a thick fabric made of wool about 34 microns and above, with fibrous surface, produced by milling and raising and includes barrack yarn from natural grey or black wool or combination thereof, and produced in any size or weave.</p> <p>(b) Kambal or kamblies means a thick fabric made of wool of about 34 microns and above, with fibrous surface, produced by milling and raising and includes kambal or mill-spun worsted yarn, woollen yarn or combination thereof, in plain, stripe or check design.</p> <p>Explanation.- For the purpose of this order, items (a) and (b) shall not include barrack blanket, kambal or kamblies made by using hand-spun or maill-spun worsted yarn, woollen yarn or combination thereof, in plain, stripe or check design.</p>
9.	Shawl, Loi, Muffler, Pankhi etc.	<p>Shawl is a piece of cloth woven from worsted yarn or woollen yarn or Pashmina yarn or pure silk yarn or cotton yarn and/or any combination thereof, which is used for covering body or worn over the shoulders without being put to any tailoring process and includes.-</p> <p>(A) a shawl-</p> <p>(i) which is woven with extra weft design, using woollen yarn or worsted yarn or pashmina yarn or pure silk yarn or cotton yarn and/or any combination thereof or in blends with other fibers which may be natural and/or cotton yarn and/or pashmina yarn or pure silk yarn or cotton yarn</p>

		<p>and/or any combination thereof;</p> <p>(ii) which is woven using any type of woollen yarn, worsted yarn or pashmina yarn or pure silk yarn or cotton yarn and/or any combination thereof;</p> <p>(iii) which is woven with any count of yarn; and</p> <p>(iv) which is woven in any length, width and weight;</p> <p>(B) Loi, pankhi, mufflers, traditional shawls like kullu, kinnauri, khani, pashmina, dhori, liranca (Tibetan), gajari or any shawl, by whatever name called, in the north eastern region.</p> <p>Explanation. - for the purpose of this order, item (A) and (B) does not include article made from cashmilon yarn.</p>
10.	Woollen Tweed	<p>Woollen tweed is a piece is a piece of fabric woven by hundred percent pure woollen yarn for making coats, jackets and dress materials and is-</p> <p>(i) produced in check or stripe design irrespective of dimensions; and</p> <p>(ii) produced in 3/1 twill weave</p>
11.	Chaddar, Mekhala or Phanek	<p>Chaddar, Mekhala or Phanek is used for covering lower and/or upper part of the body and is manufactured from cotton yarn or sik yarn or art silk yarn or art silk yarn or twill weave with check or stripe design irrespective of count and dimensions with extra warp and/or extra weft design and includes.-</p> <p>(i) Puan of Mizoram;</p> <p>(ii) Dhara, Jainsem, Dakmanda, Daksari of Meghalaya;</p> <p>(iii) Skirts and Odhana fabrics of</p>

		Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh; (iv) Riha and Pachara of Tripura; (v) Pawade (set) or Dhawani of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry; and (vi) Dakhona, Danka, Khamlet, Phanek of Assam;
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Explanation. - For the purpose of this order, -

- (a) "Chiffon" means a lightweight, open-mesh fabric, made from hard twisted silk filament yarn in plain weave;
- (b) "Butta" means extra warp and/or extra weft spots design effect in the body of a saree or dress material;
- (c) "Pawade" means an ankle-length gathered skirt often in two-piece often used with sari or dupatta;
- (d) "Odhani" means an oblong cloth of about 6 to 7 ft. long and 3 to 4 ft. wide, with overall embroidery or woven jacquard weave with traditional design like himroo shawl or made up of a fabric decorated with cotton yarn or silk yarn or zari or any other fibre and used to cover the body;
- (e) "Chinon" means a cotton or cotton blended compact plain or twill fabric mainly used as summer wear'
- (f) "Upholstery" means intricately designed jacquard fabric used for upholstering and furnishings;
- (g) "Mashru" means a mixed fabric made from cotton yarn and silk yarn and/or tie and dyed yarn;
- (h) "Mekhala" means a piece of cloth with ends sewn together which is used by women as dress or petticoat, in Assam
- (i) "Riha" means a cloth worn by women on the upper part of the body;
- (j) "Dhawani" means a saree like fabric of about 4 to 5 yards in length used by girls;
- (k) "Puan" means a cloth used for covering lower and/or upper part of the body, manufactured from cotton yarn or silk yarn or art silk yarn or in combination thereof, woven in plain or twill weave with check or stripe design and used commonly in Mizoram;
- (l) "Dhara" means a cloth used for covering lower and/or upper part of the body manufactured from cotton or silk or combination thereof, in plain or twill weave with check or stripe design, used commonly in

Meghalaya and also commonly known as "Jainsem" or "Daksari" or "Dakmanda"

- (m) "Loi" means a cloth woven from worsted or woollen or cash-melon or pashmina or any other fibre and/or blends thereof, which are used for covering the body; and also called as "Pankhi" or "Muffler" or "Shawl" in varying dimensions;
- (n) " Dhakona" means varieties used for covering lower and/or upper part of the body manufactured from cotton or silk or combination thereof, in plain or twill weave with check and stripe designs and commonly used in Assam.