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# ISRE Indian Streams Research Journal

#### **IMPACT OF REFORMS IN PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS OF TEXTILE SECTOR** : IN SPECIAL REFERENCE OF NTC (WBABO) LTD.

#### Dr. Rashmi Kumar

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#### ABSTRACT

TC mills of Bihar and West Bengal for collection of primary data for analysis of reasons of decline in productivity/efficiency, management approach and impact of government policies. A study was conducted in these mills. The paper aims to present the major findings and also to have an insight of the path forward.

**KEYWORDS** : Public Undertakings , analysis of reasons , management approach.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

National Textile Corporation Limited, (NTC) is a schedule "A" public sector company under the ambit of Ministry of Textile, Government of India, engaged in production of yarn and fabric through its 23 mills in operation, located all over India, which produces around 200 lac meters of fabric per annum. NTC also manufactures garments through its Joint Venture Companies and has established retail network throughout the country with its 92 retail stores.

NTC the production which was 116.4 million kg of yarn in 1992-93 declined to 43.1 million kg of yarn in 1997-98 but this further improved to 66.00 million in 2000-2001. The production of cloth which was 306.24 million m in 1992-93 declined to 56.88 million meters in 1997-98. The value of exports went down from 41.57 crores in 1992-93 to Rs 28.25 crores in 1997-98. In this background a study was conducted with the objective of the analysis of reasons of decline in productivity/efficiency, management approach, impact of government policies. This study is further carried in present context to examine the impact of



government revamping steps in NTC mills.

#### **METHODOLOGY FOR FIELD STUDY:**

The study focused NTC mills of Bihar and West Bengal for collection of primary data for analysis of reasons of decline in productivity/efficiency, management approach and impact of government policies. For examination of impact of reforms secondary data was used. Total 16 mills were covered for primary data which included total 16 mills under NTC West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Bihar and Orissa (WBABO) Limited, respectively 12 and 4 mills from west Bengal and Bihar state. The data was obtained through questionnaire.

#### **DECLINE IN PRODUCTIVITY:**

As per the analysis of the secondary

data it was found that in West Bengal (WB) during 1973-78 the average total percentage of spinning were 74.68% and in Bihar 75.91%. On other side the weaving capacity were 51.55% and 37.91% in WB and Bihar. During 1978-83 the capacity utilization of spinning and weaving both went down. In WB spinning were 67.78% and in Bihar it was 68.77%. Similarly weaving capacity also goes down to 49.18% and 43.56% in WB and Bihar respectively. During 1983-88 spinning capacity were found to have a dip further. Thus it was considered important to examine the reasons pertaining to productivity. Due to continuous decreasing trend in all parts of productivity were studied in light of this abrupt change. In the survey respondents were asked to indicate the reasons of low productivity. From 16 selected mills 50 respondents stated Partial Modernization and Compatibility Issues, Lack of Training to match Modernization, Lack of defined operating procedures and other minor reasons like low maintenance, over expenditure and high maintenance cost of the system. The weightage of these attributes is shown in figure 1.

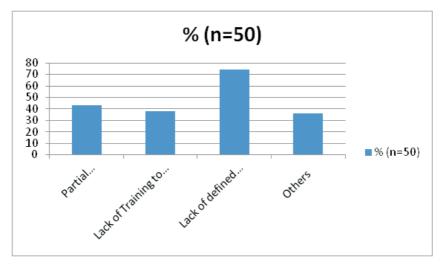


Fig 1: Productivity issues and their weightage

#### **DECLINE IN LABOUR EFFICIENCY:**

Labour is one of the major factor of production and without labour production is not possible. Under WBABO it was observed that labour efficiency was higher in the production of yarn tan cloth. The labour efficiency in yarn production was 2.97 average total man days and 2.31 in cloth during 1973-78. Further it went to 0.76 in cloth during 1993-98 and 1.04 in case of yarn during 1998-2000. There after the mills were shut down. A closure status in WB and Bihar is given in table 1.

| Mill Name                           | State       | Date of Closure |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Mokameh                             | Bihar       | 05.02.2009      |
| Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills Gaya       | Bihar       | 06.05.2002      |
| Bangasri Cotton Mills Sonepore      | Bihar       | 06.05.2002      |
| Bengal Fine Spg. & Wvg. Mills No.1  | West Bengal | 25.10.2003      |
| Konnagar                            |             |                 |
| Bengal Fine Spg. & Wvg. Mills no.2  | West Bengal | 06.05.2002      |
| Katagunj                            |             |                 |
| Bengal Laxmi Cotton Mills Serampore | West Bengal | 25.10.2003      |
| Manindra B.T. Mills Cossimbazar     | West Bengal | 06.05.2002      |
| Rampooria Cotton Mills Rishra       | West Bengal | 25.10.2003      |

#### Table 1: Closure status as during 2014

Major reason of low labour efficiency included low production, surplus manpower etc. Frequent break down in machinery was one of the widely asserted reasons of low efficiency.

#### STYLE AND APPROACH OF MANAGEMENT

Under magerial approach Size of Mills is of utmost importance for the efficiency of any mill. It is true that, a large-sized cotton textile mill cannot have much advantage over a small one in the matter of consumption of raw cotton and stores per unit of production which accounts for 51 per cent of the total works cost. So is the case with labour. The Tariff Board which enquired into the industry in 1932 said, " It is under power, supervision and office-establishment and rent, rates and taxes representing in all 12.5 per cent of the total works cost that the larger size of a mill will result in a correspondingly smaller cost per unit of output." The cost of power according to the Tariff Board was most important.

#### **OTHER LESSONS LEARNT**

In 1992, just a year after economic reforms were introduced, the Narasimha Rao government brought out a notice to stop production in several the GOI mills of WBABO without officially closing it. As they were declared 'sick' units. The workers were encouraged to take voluntary retirement with inadequate compensation. Most of the GOI-run and the privately-run mills were declared non-viable. The viable ones were sent to the newly formulated Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for a financial package for revival. Many textile workers have lost hope and have been forced to return to their native villages or started working in the unorganized sector as labourers. It was also observed in a national survey that almost all central public sector enterprises including ailing units of National Textile Corporation (NTC), hold as much as 2.38 lakh acres of land. This is land that the companies did not require for their operations even when they were alive and kicking. The textile industry should have focused on all major sectors right from fibre to fashion and planned for an organized growth across the supply chain so as to compete better. Instead, the industry had put majority of its stock in the spinning sector. This is clearly evident in the utilization of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme effectively by the spinning sector. Although it is a positive outcome, the industry turned a blind eye on value-adding sectors such as weaving and finishing. Indian powerloom sector, which enables value-addition is a highly unorganized industry and needs major upgradation still on date. Not only India does not have world quality indigenous shuttleless looms, but also investments are not adequate to cope with the quality and quantity to cater to the export market. The weak links in the Indian weaving and finishing have to be strengthened. A major thrust here is to have consolidated efforts by Indian Textile Machinery Manufacturers Association, end-users and the Government to undertake a come-up with alternatives to European Machinery, which the weaving sector can afford. This should be doable, if dedicated efforts are undertaken with the financial support for R & D by the Government through its various schemes. Further attention is also needed in the non-commodity textile sector, i.e., technical textiles sector. Although the awareness on the broad-based technology know-how and end products has been created, equally important would be marketability of non-commodity textile products.

#### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDY:

There was lack of long term vision for the development of the NTC mills and subsidiary companies and mills depended solely on Government budgetary support and other policy suppry in the form of process preference policy/purchase preference policy. They never planned for a long term to stand at their own support. There was also lack of long term foresighted fiscal policy which could have envisaged planning for sustained generation of surplus and ploughing back surplus for modernization for the development of the company.

Financial mismanagement or lack of financial discipline was observed as the fund meant for modernization was utilized non-productive purposes. Modernization was taken in part and pieces but not as unified action. Reason of closure was also indicated product mix was not modified over the time.

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