

ACS missive brings reprieve to powerloom weavers in Varanasi

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Varanasi: A missive by additional chief secretary (ACS) Navneet Sehgal, who also holds the charge of handloom and textiles department, has brought the hope of relaxation in power tariff for weavers operating powerlooms in the district.

The drive for realization of dues and disconnection of power supply of powerloom weavers has been put on hold by the electricity department after the copy of a letter (no. 188/63-vu-2021), written by the ACS (handloom and textiles department) to ACS (energy and additional energy department) Alok

Sinha regarding the same was received here on Thursday.

Talking to TOI, superintending engineer Varanasi urban-II Deepal Agrawal said, "We have received the copy of letter written by ACS (handloom and textile industries). Through this letter it has been expected from the electricity department that realization of pending power tariffs of powerloom weavers and disconnection of their power supplies should be avoided till the state cabinet issues an order after submission of a proposal before it on relaxations in power tariffs to be given to them." Agrawal said that after receiving this letter, he had convened a meeting with exec-

utive engineers in which it was decided that no power supply disconnection drive would be conducted against the weavers and their powerloom units till UP Power Corporation Limited and energy department circulate new orders after clearing all the points concerned.

The provision of realizing power tariff on fixed charges basis had been introduced through a government order issued in 2006 during the regime of then chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav.

However, in 2019 a new GO was issued to ensure that old provision is replaced by realizing power tariff on the basis of meter reading from January 1, 2020.