

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2022

VITALISING OF THE HANDLOOM COMMUNITY

154. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री
be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India is the world's largest producer of cotton;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government for the vitalising of the handloom community of the country including the present status of handloom cluster in the country; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the competition with the cheaper chinese imported fabric and high input costs of the weavers and the artisans therein?

उत्तर
ANSWER
वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती दर्शना जरदोश)
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH)

- (a): India is the second largest producer of cotton in the world.
- (b) & (c): Government is implementing the following schemes for development of handloom sector:
1. National Handloom Development Programme under which financial assistance is provided to the eligible handloom agencies/weavers, Looms & Accessories, Infrastructure development, Design & Product development, Marketing of handloom products in domestic/overseas markets etc. 600 handloom clusters have been financially assisted from 2015-16 to 2022-23 (till 31.10.2022) and Rs.389.62 crore has been released.
 2. Raw Material Supply Scheme under which freight charges are reimbursed for all types of yarn and 15% price subsidy is provided for cotton hank yarn, domestic silk, wool, linen yarn & blended yarn of natural fibres with quantity caps. The aim of the scheme is to make raw material available to handloom weavers at subsidized rates.

In addition, the following steps have been taken to compete with the cheaper imported fabric:

- On-boarding weavers and artisans on Government e-Market (GeM) portal to enable them to sell their products directly to various Government Departments and organizations.
- Organizing domestic marketing events in different parts of the country for the weavers to market and sell their products. For promoting exports of handloom products, Handloom Export Promotion Council is participating/organizing international marketing fairs/events.
