

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 499
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023

SETTING UP OF CRAFT CLUSTERS

499. SHRI SELVAM G.:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:

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

- (a) the number of operational craft clusters set up in the country especially in Tamil Nadu along with the number of craftsmen operating in the said clusters during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of financial and other assistance provided/utilized in setting up of craft clusters during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has evaluated the sick and closed down clusters and their financial condition;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken for improving the financial condition of the said clusters and reviving the closed clusters; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to set up more craft clusters in the country?

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

(a) & (b) : Total 65 craft clusters have been adopted in the last three years of which 03 adopted clusters are in Tamil Nadu. Further, for formalization of clusters, artisan-based Producer Companies have been conceptualised since 2020-21 for the overall development of cluster artisans. So far, 165 Producer Companies (including 3 in Tamil Nadu) have been formed across the country under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) covering export-oriented clusters, SC, ST, Women clusters, clusters linking tourism spots and aspirational districts. The details of beneficiaries covered under AHVY and financial assistance provided to them in the last three years and the current year is enclosed in **Annexure -I**

(c) & (d): The evaluation of cluster activities has been conducted across the country in the year 2019-20 and no cluster have been closed down. As per the recommendations of the evaluation report, Government organized Chaupals/Shivirs all over the country for providing Aadhar linked Pahchan Cards, facilitating the artisans through MUDRA loan and for onboarding the artisans on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal and making them aware of the e-commerce market. Workshop cum seminar have been organised by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles with a view of sensitizing the cluster artisans, entrepreneurs, NGO, Voluntary Organisation

involved in Handicraft sector. Further, initiatives have been taken to resolve the artisan's issue by establishing Helpline centre.

Also, the revised Ambedkar Hastashilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) scheme envisages supporting viable craft clusters across the country through formation of Producer Companies and subsequently providing need-based intervention like design and technical development workshop, distribution of tool-kits, exhibition, craft demonstration programme, seminar to integrate them into the financial mainstream.

(e): The Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) identifies and strengthens the existing clusters by providing appropriate interventions based on the needs of artisans.

In line with National Action Plan for Toys' guidelines of Government of India, Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has provided need-based interventions to toy clusters for sustainable development of toy craft artisans.

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure I refer to Part (a) to (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 499 for answer on 6th December 2023.

Details of beneficiaries covered & financial assistance provided (2020-2023)

Sr. No.	Financial Year	Financial Assistance across the country (in crore)	Total number of beneficiaries across the country	Total number of beneficiaries in the state of Tamil Nadu
1.	2020-21	22.77	19,190	360
2.	2021-22	41.48	45,985	1,572
3.	2022-23	38.10	23,060	374
4.	2023-24	48.01	21,716	385
Total		150.36	1,09,951	2,691
