

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3094
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
PRODUCTION IN HANDLOOM SECTOR
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have advised the handloom sector to shift production to high value items for niche markets to survive in an increasingly competitive environment;
- (b) if so, whether any assistance has been provided by the Government to support traditional expertise in the sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for infrastructure development and skill upgradation in the sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) The objectives of the various schemes implemented for the development of the handloom sector, include, among others, production of high value items for niche markets to enable the handloom weavers to survive in an increasingly competitive environment

(b)&(c)The basic objective of the various schemes implemented for development and welfare of handloom sector is preservation of the traditional designs of handloom products. In order to enable the handloom sector to do so, assistance is provided through 24 Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) functioning in various parts of the country under the Ministry of Textiles.WSCs have been providing services by imparting training to weavers to upgrade their skill in traditional weaving and increase productivity in the sector. They have also been instrumental in evolving innumerable new designs and reviving traditional designs. The WSCs also conduct decentralised training programmes to upgrade skills of the weavers to enable them to make value added products. While there are schemes for development of exportable products and research and innovation to enable the handloom products respond to the contemporary market, the basic thrust continues to be on preservation and revival of traditional designs.

(d) The Government has launched a comprehensive scheme called Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) with effect from 1.4.2000. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for infrastructure development, skill upgradation, product development, training to weavers, supply of equipments and marketing support.