

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:659  
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002  
INDIA'S SHARE IN THE WORLD HANDICRAFTS MARKETS  
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

**Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is any proposal to declare handicrafts trade as an industry;
- (b) if, so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor.
- (c) Whether the government have conducted any study to find out India's share in the world handicraft market, particularly of USA and EC;
- (d) If so, the findings thereof and the steps taken by the Government in that direction; and
- (e) The main role of the Union Government in the development of handicraft industries?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 659 FOR ANSWER ON 10.5.2002

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Handicrafts, being in the unorganized and decentralized sector, the need for declaring it as an industry has not been felt so far. The handicrafts traders and exporters have also not made any demand in this regard.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The main role of the Government of India for the development of handicrafts in the country is as under:-

- i) to increase the production base of crafts having high market demand;
- ii) to establish vibrant, member-controlled Communities Based Enterprises (CBEs) for self-sustainable development of handicrafts;
- iii) to continue design and technological upgradation programmes for quality output and enhanced value addition;
- iv) to enhance employment opportunities, particularly in rural and backward areas of the country and to preserve crafts as living heritage;
- v) to create and expand market for handicrafts, both in India and abroad; and
- vi) to improve the socio-economic condition of craftspersons in the country.