

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:609
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005
POLICY FOR HANDLOOM SECTOR
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan; Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the government propose to announce a separate policy for the handloom sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Handloom weavers have been ignored by the Government in the past and they are on the verge of collapse; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which the new policy for handloom sector is likely to help in promoting the sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

- (a) National Textile Policy was announced in the year 2000. The handloom sector also forms a part of the National Textile Policy 2000.
- (b) The details of the National Handloom Policy incorporated in the National Textile Policy 2000 are as under:-

The handloom sector is known for its heritage and the tradition of excellent craftsmanship. It provides livelihood to millions of weavers and craftsperson. The industry has not only survived but also grown over the decades due to its inherent strength like flexibility of production in small quantities, openness to innovation, low level of capital investment and immense possibility of designing fabrics. Government will continue to accord priority to this sector. Steps would be taken to promote and develop its exclusiveness for the global market. Measure will include the following:-

Training modules will be developed for weavers engaged in the production of low value added items, who may not be able to survive the competition consequent on globalization, with the objective of upgrading their skills to enable them to find alternate employment in the textile or other allied sector;

Comprehensive welfare measures will continue to be implemented in close cooperation with the State Governments, for better working environment and the social security of the weavers;

Effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages will be provided;

The implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 will be reviewed keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers;

Weavers Service Centres will be revamped in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using Information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID;

As merchandising and marketing will be central to the success of the handloom sector, the present package of schemes for production of value added fabrics will be streamlined; innovative market-oriented schemes will be introduced; and joint ventures encouraged both at the domestic and international levels. Brand equity of handlooms will be commercially exploited to the extent possible.

(c)&(d)The Government of India has been implementing various schemes for the development of handloom sector in the country viz. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers Welfare Scheme, Handloom Export Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985. Further more, new schemes of Integrated Handloom Cluster Development (IHCD), Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna and Health Insurance Scheme have been launched in the current financial year. Handloom Mark will be launched soon which will help in development of the handloom sector.

The production of handlooms in the year 2004-05 was 5722 million sq. mtrs compared to 5493 million sq. mtrs in 2003-04 which shows an increase. Also in the first quarter of 2005-06 it has registered a growth of 17.9 %.