

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:804

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006

WOMEN WEAVERS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) the details of male and female workers engaged in weaving trade in textile sector in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to initiate any special Scheme for the welfare of women weavers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the Scheme is likely to be operational?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) As per the Census of Handlooms 1995-96 the number of men and women engaged in weaving activity (including preparatory work) in the handloom sector are as under:-

Number of Men: 15,41,652

Number of women: 32,43,284

The break up of male and female weavers in Powerloom Industry of textile Sector in the country is not available. The total number of workers in the Powerloom Sector is estimated to be 48.27 lakhs

(b) to (d) There is no such proposal for any special scheme for the welfare of women weavers. The Government is implementing a number of schemes for the development of the handloom Sector and welfare of handloom weavers, such as, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Handloom Export Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Design Development and Training Programme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Weavers Welfare Scheme comprising -Thrift Fund Scheme and New Insurance Scheme. In addition to the above schemes, the following new schemes have been introduced during the current financial year:

(i) Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (IHCD),

(ii) Mahatama Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna (MGBBY),

(iii) Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)

None of the schemes are gender specific. Under all handloom sector schemes, women are also eligible for availing the benefit of the Schemes. Further, under Deen Dyal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) a special dispensation has been made for such implementing agencies that have 100% beneficiary member as women in that the sharing ratio of financial assistance in the case of such societies is 75:25 between the Central and the State Governments as compared to 50:50 in respect of other implementing agencies. Under the Health Insurance Scheme, there is a provision for extending assistance @ Rs.2,500/-for maternity benefit (per child for the first two children) to women workers in handloom sector.

Government has already introduced a welfare scheme 'Group Insurance Scheme' for Powerloom Workers since July 2003 and women are also eligible for availing the benefit of this scheme.