

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:166
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2006
SUICIDE BY WEAVERS
Shivanna Shri M

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) The number of weavers who committed suicide during the last three years in the country, particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) Whether the Government has made any efforts to find out the causes of such suicides;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to curb such incidents?

Answer

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

(a) Details of the weavers who committed suicide during the last three years as reported by the State Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are as under :-

State	Year					
	2003	2004	2005			
	Handloom weavers	Powerloom weavers	Handloom weavers	Powerloom weavers	Handloom weavers	Powerloom weavers

Karnataka		NIL	06			
Andhra Pradesh	06	21	35	41	32	29

No other State has reported any suicide by the weavers.

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. Some of causes for suicides have been found to be, due to ill health, personal problems, indebtedness, failure in business, heavy expenditure on marriages, alcoholism etc.

In order to curb such incidents and to boost the weaving sector the State Government of Karnataka has informed that, in addition to the regular schemes, following benefits under Weavers' welfare Package such as subsidized power to powerloom units, waiver of interest and penal interest on loans borrowed by weavers from Urban Co-operative Banks and under various Government sponsored scheme, Loans to weavers @ 4% interest through Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks, District Central Co-operative Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks w.e.f. 1.4.2006, contribution of 50% amount of annual premium under the Health Insurance Scheme and Life Insurance Scheme, Coverage of Yeshaswini Health Scheme to Cooperative Weavers, subsidy for modernization and upgradation of Powerlooms, Housing cum-worksheds to powerloom weavers same as handloom weavers under Government of India scheme, Raw material subsidy, interest subsidy, margin money and rebate to KHDC in order to provide full time employment to the weavers under the Corporation, 20% rebate on sale of handloom products by Primary Handloom weavers Co-operative Societies, KHDC and Karnataka Co-operative Handloom Weavers Federation etc.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they have taken several steps to prevent suicides such as timely payment of amount due to the societies for the procurement made by the Andhra Pradesh State Handloom weavers Cooperative Society Ltd. (APCO), increasing the procurement by the APCO from the Societies, Implementation of Artisan Credit Cards for the weavers which provides working capital for the weavers, coverage of youth in the weavers family under Self Employment schemes viz. PMRY and Rajjiv Yuva Sakthi.

Further more, the Government of India is implementing a number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. The main development schemes are Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), Integrated Handloom Training Project, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers' Welfare Scheme and Handloom Export Scheme. During 2005-06 three new schemes have been launched which are Integrated Handloom Cluster Development (IHCD), Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) and Health Insurance Scheme (HIS).

