

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:192
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006
HANDLOOM WEAVERS
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether handloom weavers are the largest rural workers in the unorganized sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has chalked out any plan for modernization and expansion of handloom sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.192 FOR ANSWER ON 5.12.2006.

(a) As an economic activity, the handloom sector which is basically unorganized in nature, occupies second place to agriculture in providing livelihood to the people in the country.

(b) As per the joint Census of Handlooms and Powerlooms 1995-96, 65.50 Lakh persons are engaged in the handloom weaving and allied activities in the country. Out of these, 85.45% are in rural areas.

(c)&(d) The Government 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 developmental schemes are Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers' Welfare Scheme and Handloom Export Scheme. Further more, new schemes of Integrated Handloom Cluster Development (IHCD), Mahatama Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna and Health Insurance Scheme have been launched in the year 2005-06 while Handloom Mark and Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme have been launched in the year 2006-07. One of the objectives of the TUF scheme is to establish a production base with up-graded technology in pre-loom/on-loom/post-loom operation and quality control under one roof, thus strengthening the capacity to undertake bulk production for domestic and export markets, with improved productivity and quality.