

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:151  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008  
DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFTS  
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently made an assessment of the development of handicrafts in the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the names of States which have not fixed any targets for the development of handicrafts;
- (d) the names of States which are lagging behind in the development of handicrafts; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote handicrafts in these States ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 151 FOR ANSWER ON 10.03.2008.

(a) & (b): Yes sir. To assess the development of handicrafts in the country, a Census of handicrafts artisans was undertaken in 1995-96. The census report yielded information relating to status of the handicraft sector.

In order to make a current assessment of the development of handicrafts in the country, a fresh census has been proposed. It is proposed to undertake census of 20% districts in the country every year during the 11th five year Plan. Accordingly, in the current year, census work in respect of four Regions of the country namely Central, Northern, Western & Eastern has been awarded to the identified agencies. This census shall provide information regarding status of handicrafts in the country.

As mentioned above, the census operations for 4 regions have been sanctioned only recently, hence the outcome is yet to come.

(c) & (d): The Schemes of the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country are Central Sector Schemes under which funds are not released to State Government directly. As such the Government does not fix state wise targets. The schemes of the Government are grant-in-aid schemes under which funds are released to various implementing agencies which include State Handicrafts Development Corporations, voluntary organizations and Institutions etc. Different states fix their own target based on budgetary support approved by the respective State Governments.

However, while implementing the Central Sector Scheme namely `Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana` (AHVY), State wise targets in terms of number of new craft clusters to be covered in a year is prescribed by the Government of India. In the year 2007-08, targets of all states except for Maharashtra & Gujarat have been achieved. It is likely that by the end of current financial year, target for these states too shall be achieved.

(e): The steps taken by the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country include implementation of various schemes including Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of identified craft clusters ; Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme; Marketing Support & Services Scheme ; Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme ; Human Resource Development Scheme and Research & Development Scheme.