

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2482  
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2005  
HANDLOOM AS HERITAGE INDUSTRY  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether there is any plan to treat handlooms as 'heritage' industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of genuine skilled weavers;
- (d) if so, whether there is any proposal to start a gurukula type of learning system with selected master weavers so that the skills could be handed down to the next generation; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TEXTILES ( SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA )

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir. As per Joint Census of Handlooms & Powerlooms 1995-96 conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), there were 65.51 lakh persons engaged in weaving and associated activities in handloom sector.
- (d) & (e) Do not arise.