

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6690

ANSWERED ON:06.05.2010

WOMEN ENGAGED IN TEXTILES SECTOR

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether women constitute a large percentage of workforce engaged in handloom, handicrafts and sericulture;
- (b) if so, the details of such workforce, head-wise and whether any study has been conducted to assess the working condition of such women; and
- (c) if so, the outcome of the said study and the action being taken by the Government based on such study particularly in the areas specific to women development such as insurance, training facilities etc.?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SMT. PANABAAGA LAKSHMI)

(a): Yes, Madam. As per census conducted in 1995-96, 49.25% and 47.41% of the total persons engaged in handloom sector and handicrafts sector respectively are women. In case of sericulture, women constitute 60.0% of the workforce.

(b) & (c): No specific study has been conducted to assess the working conditions of women in handloom and handicrafts sector. However, in sericulture, under the National Sericulture Project (1989-96), Central Silk Board, an Statutory Body under the Admn. Control of Ministry of Textiles, had undertaken a study to assess the problem faced by the women in sericulture. Several NGOs and S&T organizations were involved to study the grass-root level problems. Based on the outcome of the study, the major issues that were concerning the women in sericulture industry were identified viz. technical awareness and skill development, access to land and credit etc. CSB had included a separate component entitled "Women Development Component" under the Catalytic Development Programme in the XI Plan.

Under the "Women Development Component", following schemes have been taken up:-

(i) Health Insurance for Women sericulturists and workers

The "Health Insurance Programme" is being implemented through the State Sericulture Departments. The scheme covers not only the women as the prime insurer but also her husband and two children (1+3), covering all pre-existing diseases as well as and keeping substantial provision for OPD, up to a maximum of Rs.15,000 per year. The programme covers all pre-existing diseases, and all those which are specifically associated with sericulture industry.

(ii) Training to women Sericulturists

The Research Institutes and EDP Cell of the Central Silk Board provide training to women sericulturists to enhance their skill and competency in sericulture. The Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute of CSB at Mysore has organised exclusive training programmes for women under a DBT sponsored programme. The major Research Institutes of CSB have been imparting training to the stake holders of silk industry, officials sponsored by the State Governments, NGOs etc which includes both women and men. In addition exclusive training is organised for women groups to develop handicraft items such as flower bouquet, decorative items etc. out of pierced cocoons.