

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:870
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
IMPLEMENTATION OF HANDLOOM SCHEMES
Dubey Shri Nishikant ;M.Thambidurai Dr.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and the names of schemes formulated/under implementation for the development of handloom sector and for social welfare of handloom weavers in the country particularly in Jharkhand State as on date;
- (b) whether any review/evaluation has been carried out to find out the extent of benefits of these schemes reached to the targeted sector and handloom weavers during recent past thereby redressing the problems being faced by the weavers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the outcome of such evaluation/review;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the working condition of the handloom weavers?

Answer

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

(a): The Government of India is committed to the welfare of handloom weavers and has approved the following schemes in the XIth Five Year Plan which are comprehensive in nature. These schemes are for the development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers and are being implemented throughout the country including Jharkhand State:

- i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme
- ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
- iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
- v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

(b) to (d): The National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training (NISIET), Hyderabad, now known as National Institute of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NIMSME), was entrusted with the evaluation of the Health Insurance Scheme during the year 2006-07. Their report stated that the scheme is a boon to the weavers at large and that Union Government may continue the scheme into XI Plan and beyond. NISIET (NIMSME) was also entrusted with the evaluation of the Marketing Promotion Programme and Handloom Export Scheme during the X Plan. Their report recommended continuation of these schemes with some modifications for better implementation. Based on the recommendations of this evaluation study, both the Marketing Promotion Programme and Handloom Export Scheme were merged and are being implemented in the XIth Plan as Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme.

(e): In order to provide better working conditions the Government of India is implementing above five schemes and the progress in these schemes during the first three years of XI Plan is as under:

(i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS) The scheme provides Basic Input, Marketing Input and Skill up-gradation support.

Under the cluster approach of the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme 20 large clusters and 434 medium size clusters have been identified. Under the Group Approach of the scheme 944 Group approach proposals have been sanctioned. As many as 3.55 lakh weavers directly benefited under the scheme.

(ii) Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme The scheme has two components i.e; Marketing Promotion Programme and Handloom Export Scheme.

Marketing Promotion Component (i) To assist & increase the sale of handloom goods in the Domestic market for organizing Handloom Expos, District Level Events and Crafts Melas, (ii) To provide permanent marketing infrastructural support to handloom agencies in major cities and towns in the form of Urban Haats and Handloom Complexes, (iii) To give publicity and promote awareness about the handloom sector and (iv) To establish a brand Identity for handlooms at the national and international level through Handloom Mark.

Under this component, a sum of Rs.172.13 crore has been sanctioned benefiting 29.00 lakh weavers during the first three years of XI

Plan,. 1273 events have been organised under Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme during the XI Plan till 2009-10 with sales generation of Rs.680 crore in the same period.

Handloom Export Promotion Component –

(i) assist the handloom cooperative societies & corporations in developing exportable products and assist handloom agencies in publicity and international marketing of their products through publicity related activities participation in International Exhibition, Buyer-Seller-Meets etc. and

(ii) make available to the exporters the latest international designs. Colour forecasts, trends etc.

(iii) Handlooms Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

The Government of India is implementing Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme with the components (i) the Health Insurance Scheme for providing health care facilities to the handlooms weavers in the country and (ii) the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for providing life insurance cover to the handloom weavers in case of natural/ accidental death, total/ partial disability due to accident. During the XI Plan, both schemes have been amalgamated into one scheme namely Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme. The details of the scheme are as under:

(1) Health Insurance Scheme

The Health Insurance Scheme covers not only the weaver but his wife and two children also. The ancillary handlooms workers like those engaged in warping, winding, dyeing, printing, finishing, sizing, Jhala making, jacquard cutting etc. are also eligible to be covered under the scheme. The scheme covers all pre-existing diseases as well as new diseases and a substantial provision has been kept for OPD . The annual limit per family is Rs.15,000/-, out of which OPD cover will be Rs, 7500/-. The Scheme is implemented through the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. The total premium under the scheme for 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been reduced to Rs.781.60/- (including Service Tax) from Rs.1000/-+ Service Tax as existed during the 10th plan.

Under the Health Insurance component of Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS), 17.74 lakh weavers in 2007-08, 18.78 lakh weavers in 2008-09 and 16.11 lakh weavers in 2009-10 have been enrolled/renewals and claims worth Rs.199.08 crore have been settled during the XI Plan period.

(2) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

The Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana provides life insurance cover in case of natural/ accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident. The scheme is being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India at an annual Premium of Rs 330/- per annum with the contribution of weaver as Rs.80/- per annum, Government of India's contribution of Rs.150/- per annum and LIC's contribution of Rs.100/- per weaver per annum.

The annual premium during the 11th plan has been kept at the level of the X Plan, but the benefits under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana have been substantially increased as compared to those that existed during the 10th plan, as per the details given below:-

S.No. Benefits during the 10th plan Benefits form 1.10.07

(i) Natural Death	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 60,000/-
(ii) Accidental Death	Rs. 80,000/-	Rs. 1,50,000/-
(iii) Total Disability	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs.1,50,000/-
(iv) Partial Disability	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs.75,000/-

Under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) component of the HWCWS, which provides life cover, 4.66 lakh weavers in 2007-08, 5.76 lakh weavers in 2008-09 and 5.10 lakh weavers in 2009-10 have been enrolled including renewals.

The scholarship benefits available under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana during the X plan are being continued in the XI plan also. A scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child is available to students studying from IX to XII standard for four years or till they complete XII standard, whichever event occurs earlier. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered.

Scholarship to 1,81,136 children of weavers beneficiaries who were covered under the MGBBY amounting to Rs.16.14 crore has been provided by the Life Insurance Corporation during the XI Plan.

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme was introduced during 1992-93 with the objective of providing all types of yarn to the handloom weavers' organizations at the price in which it is available at the place of manufacturing. There is also a provision for supply of yarn to the individual weavers through the yarn depots approved by the NHDC. The expenditure for operating the yarn depot is to be reimbursed by the NHDC @ 2.5% of the value of the yarn. The assistance provided under the scheme is for reimbursement of freight for transportation of yarn, Expenses of operating the yarn depots @ 2.5%, based on actual. And Service Charges to NHDC for its role as nodal agency for the implementation of the MGPS. The scheme is being continued during the XI Plan.

2634 lakh kg. yarn worth Rs.2348 crore has been supplied by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) under the Mill Gate Price Scheme and 650 Yarn Depots have been opened.

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme: provides strengthening of Weavers Service Centres, Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology, National Centre for Textile Design, Research & Development etc., Conducting of Third Handloom Census.

Under this scheme the third All India Handloom Census and Issue of Photo Identity Cards through National Council of Applied and Economic Research (NCAER) has been carried out.

203 Design Exhibition & Dyeing Workshops were conducted in 2007-08, 213 in 2008-09 and 229 in 2009-10 by the Weavers Service Centres in different parts of the country.

Implementation of all these schemes is being reviewed periodically with the State Directors of Handlooms and Textiles under the chairmanship of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, the recent of which was held on 16 – 17th June, 2010 at New Delhi.