

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:891
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
TEXTILE INDUSTRY OF VENKATAGIRI
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by textiles units in Venkatagiri (popularly known as Venkatagiri Sarees) in Andhra Pradesh during the last few years in view of increased input costs; and

(b) if so, the steps that the Government is going to take to prevent these units from the brink of collapse?

Answer

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

(a): Yes Madam. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported the problems being faced by Textile Units in Venkatagiri in view of increased input cost.

(b): The Government of India has been implementing the following Five Schemes for the overall development of Handloom weavers, all over the country, including State of Andhra Pradesh:

Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)

This scheme provides need based inputs to a "Cluster" of 300-500 Handloom or a "Group" of 10-100 weavers for making them self-sustainable by providing them financial assistance for margin money, working capital, new looms and accessories, skill upgradation, marketing opportunities and for construction of workshed.

Under IHDS, so far 52 clusters and 262 Group Approach proposals have been sanctioned for State of Andhra Pradesh during the XI Plan period. A sum of Rs.1403.40 Lakh has been released. Out of these, 3 cluster and 3 Group Approach proposals have been sanctioned for the development of handloom weavers of Nellore Distt.

Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

This comprises of two separate schemes viz. the Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) for providing Health Insurance to the Handloom weavers and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing Life Insurance Cover in case of natural/ accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident.

Under Health Insurance Scheme (HIS), 1,20,027 handloom weavers and under Mahatma Ghandi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY), 90,460 handloom weavers were enrolled during 2009-10 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)

This scheme provides marketing opportunities and infrastructure support through design development and marketing linkages to assist in the sale of the Handloom products both in domestic and international market.

Under the Scheme, during the current financial year 55 proposals to organize the exhibitions of various levels have been sanctioned for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Mill Gate Price Scheme

This scheme makes available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom agencies to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom weavers and to optimize their employment potential. Under the Mill Gate Price Scheme during 2009-10, 54.49 lakh kgs. of yarn valuing Rs. 6813.13 lakh was supplied in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

This scheme provides assistance for technological and skill upgradation of weavers for design and product development through 25 Weavers' Service Centres and 05 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology all over the country to improve the productivity and earnings of the handloom weavers. 2 Weavers' Service Centres at Hyderabad and Vijaywada are functioning in Andhra Pradesh.

Besides above schemes, Government of Andhra Pradesh is also implementing their own schemes i.e, Artisan Credit Card Scheme, 10% Yarn Subsidy Scheme, Modernization and upgradation of Loom Scheme, Pavala Vaddi Scheme, Assistance under NABARD Refinance Scheme, Loan Waiver Scheme etc. for the benefit of Handloom Industry. Under the welfare measures Old Age pension Scheme are also being implemented for the benefit of weavers and their families.