

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1950
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2010
SILK WEAVERS IN ASSAM
Chakravarty Smt. Bijoya

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any specific plans to promote silk weavers of Assam like setting up mega cluster particularly for the Greater Sualkusi area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : The Government of Assam has intimated that at present there is no specific plan for setting up of Mega Cluster in Greater Sualkusi area. However, the Government of India has sanctioned a Mega Handloom Cluster at Sivasagar, Assam with a project cost of Rs.70.00 crore for overall holistic development of about 25000 handlooms.

In addition, the Government of India has been implementing the following five schemes for the overall development of handloom sector, all over the country, including Assam and Greater Sualkusi area:

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 15 clusters and 28 Group Approach Proposals have been sanctioned for State of Assam during the 11th Five Year Plan and a sum of Rs. 343.56 Lakh has been released.

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), 352124 handloom weavers and under Mahatma Ghandi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY), 55291 handloom weavers were enrolled during 2009-10 in the State of Assam.

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 2010-11, 73 proposals to organize the exhibitions of various levels have been sanctioned for the State of Assam.

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, 1.103 lakh kgs. of yarn valuing Rs. 351.45 lakh was supplied in the State of Assam.

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. 1 Weavers' Service Centre and 1 Indian Institute of Handloom Technology is functioning at Guwahati in Assam.