

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1955

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2010

CONDITION OF WEAVERS

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that condition of weavers in the country is very pathetic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that across the country, several weavers committed suicide during recent months;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the details of remedial measures taken to ameliorate the pitiable condition of poor weavers?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : Most of the State Governments have intimated that the condition of weavers is not pathetic. However, the weavers are facing problem due to increase in cost of raw material, due to general inflation and due to competition from powerlooms and mill sector.

(c) & (d): No State Government except Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported the suicide of persons belonging to weavers community during recent months. In the state of Andhra Pradesh, 6 persons belonging to weavers community have reportedly committed suicide during recent months i.e. May and June, 2010. However, in the absence of any confirmation from the Sub Committee constituted for the purpose by the State Government, the State Government has concluded that there are no instance of weavers having committed suicide due to financial hardship.

(e) : The Government of India has been implementing the following five schemes during the 11th Five Year Plan for the overall development of handloom sector, all over the country:

**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 workshop.

Under IHDS, so far 468 clusters and 1098 Group Approach Proposals have been sanctioned all over the country during the 11th Five Year Plan and a sum of Rs. 143.32 crore 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), 1611837 handloom weavers and under Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY), 510492 handloom weavers were enrolled during 2009-10 all over the country.

**# 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, 561 proposals to organize the exhibitions of various levels were sanctioned during the year 2009-10.

**# 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, 1080.96 lakh kgs. of yarn valuing Rs. 987.11 crore was supplied throughout the country.

**# 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.

In addition to the above, the Government of India has taken up 4 Mega Handloom Clusters at Varanasi (UP), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhnagar (Tamilnadu) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) with a maximum project cost of Rs. 70.00 crore each for overall and holistic development of more than 25000 handlooms.