

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:17
ANSWERED ON:02.07.2009
ASSISTANCE TO HANDLOOM SECTOR
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the unsatisfactory condition of people working in handloom sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from various States including the State of Kerala for financial assistance to the handloom sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for the development of the Handloom Sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES(SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 17 FOR 02.07.2009

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The condition of the weavers engaged in the handloom sector is dependent on steady supply of basic inputs like yarn, credit, looms, accessories etc at reasonable rates especially as they face stiff competition from the organized mill and powerloom sectors and also in marketing of finished products. In order to alleviate the weavers from the problems and to improve their working conditions, the Government of India has formulated schemes to assist them in acquiring looms, organize marketing events, supply of yarn and to provide health and life insurance besides others.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Government of India has received representations from various States, including the State of Kerala, requesting for waiver of long outstanding loan and interest of weavers cooperative societies that would open up the choked credit lines and to revive the production and employment cycle. A financial package for waiver of loan and interest is under active consideration of the Government of India.

(e): The Government of India is implementing the following schemes for enhancing production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers through skill upgrading, and for providing infrastructural and marketing support in the XI Plan period.

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