

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4262
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2010
BANARASI SAREES
Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether machine made Banarasi sarees of Chinese origin has impacted severely traditional Banarasi saree industry;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and
- (c) if so, its outcome and corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken to protect the traditional Banarasi saree industry?

Answer

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

(a): The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has replied in the affirmative to this question.

(b) & (c): The State Government has reported that no study has been conducted in this regard so far. However, State Government of Uttar Pradesh has registered the Banarasi brocade and sarees under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 to protect the identity of these items from imitation by others.

In order to protect the interest of weavers and promote the Handloom Sector, the Government of India has been implementing the following schemes in all over the country including Uttar Pradesh State:-

1. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme(IHDS).

This scheme provides need based inputs to a "Cluster" of 300-500 Handlooms or a "Group" of 10-100 weavers for making them self-sustainable by providing them financial assistance for margin money, working capital, construction of worksheds, new looms and accessories, skill upgradation and marketing opportunities. Under IHDS, 44 clusters and 134 Group Approach proposals have been sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh State during the 11th Five Year Plan and a sum of Rs. Rs. 1272.33 lakh has been released. Out of 44 clusters in Uttar Pradesh, 10 numbers of clusters have been sanctioned in the Varanasi region.

In addition to above, 4 handloom clusters have been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh at Varanasi, Barabanki, Mubarakpur and Bijnor. Each cluster having about 5000 handlooms to be developed at a total cost not exceeding Rs. 2.00 crore. One Mega Cluster has also been sanctioned in Varanasi. This Mega Cluster will be developed under Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme in a time frame of 5 years with an upper ceiling of Government of India grant of Rs. 70.00 crore. The cluster will cover 25,000 handlooms of the area for its integrated and holistic development.

2. 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), 191714 handloom weavers and under Mahatma Ghandi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY), 12096 handloom weavers were enrolled during 2009-10 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

3. Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)

This scheme provides marketing opportunities and infrastructure support through focussed design development and marketing linkages to assist in the sale of the Handloom products both in domestic and international market. During the year 2009-10, one National Handloom Expo and 48 District Level Events were organized in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme. In addition to marketing events organised in Uttar Pradesh, 26 National Level and 117 State Level Exhibitions were organised in the other parts of the country where the weavers of the Uttar Pradesh have also participated to promote the sales of handloom products.

4. 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 in order to optimize their employment potential. There are total numbers of 71 Yarn Depots are functioning in Uttar Pradesh State to provide yarns at Mill Gate Price to the weavers. Out of this 39 yarn depots are functioning in Varanasi.

5. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

This scheme provides assistance for technological and skill upgradation of weavers for design and product development through Weavers' Service Centres and Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology. There are 2 Weavers' Service Centre at Varanasi and Meerut and one Indian Institute of Handloom Technology at Varanasi.