

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:806  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011  
SUICIDES BY WEAVERS  
Ramkishun Shri

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

- (a) whether suicides are being committed by weavers due to economic hardships in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidised power and other incentives to weavers for saving the industry from the verge of closure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the pathetic condition of weavers in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): In the current calendar year i.e. 2011, no State Government except Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported suicide of persons belonging to weavers community. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported 8 suicide cases of the persons belonging to weavers community (both handloom and powerloom) in the current calendar year due to family disturbance, financial and other domestic problems.

(c) to (e): At present there is no proposal in this Ministry to provide subsidized power to handloom weavers because this falls in the domain of State Governments. In any case, handloom weaving as an activity does not use power-driven machinery. The Government of India is implementing various schemes all over the country to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the following schemes are being implemented for the overall development of handloom weavers:

1. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS) 2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme 3. Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS) 4. Mill Gate Price Scheme 5. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

In addition to the above schemes, Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) has been introduced in 2008-09 with an objective to empower handloom weavers and build their capacity to enhance competitiveness of their products in the domestic as well as global market in a sustainable and reliant manner. The scheme covers clearly identifiable geographical locations with at least 25,000 looms in which Government of India's financial support would be up to Rs.70 crore. Four such Mega Handloom Clusters have been sanctioned so far at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhunagar (Tamilnadu) and Murshidabad (West Bengal).