

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:861

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011

PROBLEMS FACED BY HANDLOOM AND POWERLOOM WEAVERS

Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the handloom weavers and powerloom weavers throughout the country particularly from West Bengal are facing lot of problems in the absence of potential users in the domestic market as well as outside the country and they are not getting adequate price to their products;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to mitigate the problems of handloom weavers;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measure like loan waiver for handloom sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to export handloom products to neighbouring countries;
- (f) whether the Government has taken steps to increase the levy on handloom imports; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No specific report has been received from State Governments in this regard. However increase in prices of raw materials both cotton and silk Yarn has affected the handloom and powerloom weavers. In order to promote the Handloom Sector and make it potentially viable in the domestic as well as export market, the Government of India has taken a number of new initiatives such as training programmes for skill up-gradation and technical development, aggressive marketing efforts, strengthening of Apex Societies as well as Cluster/Group approach projects. The Government of India is implementing following schemes for overall development of the handloom sector in the country: -

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

The Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme provides marketing opportunities to assist in the sale of handloom products both in domestic and international market. During 11th plan 1953 marketing events have been sanctioned to various State governments.

Under Mill Gate Price Scheme, the expenditure for transportation of yarn from the Mill Gate to the godown of the handloom agencies as well as expenditure on depot operations are being reimbursed by the Government of India. 3512.3 lakh kg yarn worth Rs 3274.57 crore has been supplied during 11th plan period so far.

In addition, 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).

Apart from the above schemes, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms of this Ministry has been taking new initiatives to promote the handloom sector. A few of the initiatives taken are:

(i) Handloom mark website www.handloommark.gov.in has been launched in December, 2009. The One time registration fee under the Handloom Mark Scheme in case of weaver has been reduced from Rs.100/- to Rs.25/- and in case of Master weaver from Rs.2000/- to Rs.500/-.

(ii) To create awareness about traditional handloom textiles, 4 commemorative postage stamps on Banarasi Silk, Kanchipuram Silk,

Kalamkari and Apa Tani weavers were released by the Hon'ble President of India on 10th December, 2009.

(iii) E-marketing linkage has been provided to 20 Handloom Clusters on commercial website to facilitate marketing of handloom products.

(iv) To create awareness about Handloom products and age old Indian heritage of hand-weaving, Ministry of Textiles has declared a "Handloom Week" to be held from 21st to 27th December every year.

(v) In order to promote the export of handloom products, the Handloom Export Promotion Council under the administrative control of Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has brought out a sourcing guide titled "Handloom Atlas of India" in 4 international languages covering the entire handwoven textile scenario of the country. The Council also facilitates its member exporters for participation in international fairs and exhibitions.

(vi) Free of cost download facility of textile designs with technical specification in regional languages has been provided through National Centre for Textile Design. About 1150 designs are available at the website: www.designdiary.nic.in.

(vii) New HS Code has been introduced w.e.f. October, 2009 in order to capture export data on handlooms.

(c) & (d): This Ministry has taken up the matter of Financial Package for Handloom Sector with Ministry of Finance, which inter alia includes cleansing of overdue loan & interest of weavers cooperative societies and providing of loan to handloom weavers at 7% p.a. interest.

(e): The handloom products are already being exported to countries all over the world. During the year 2009-10, the export of handloom products was to the tune of Rs. 1252.80 crore.

(f) & (g): The Government does not import handlooms. Moreover, India is the only country where handloom products are produced on large scale and exported to the countries all over the world. Hence, the question of increase in levy on handloom imports does not arise.