

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1574  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011  
HANDLOOM WEAVERS  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether the number of weavers in the handloom sector in the country is constantly decreasing;
- (b) if so, the comparative number of weavers in the handloom sector in 1995 and as on date alongwith the reasons for the constant decrease in their numbers;
- (c) whether the said decrease in the number of weavers is having any adverse effect on the handloom industry in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes Madam.

(b): The number of Handloom weavers and allied workers as per the Second Census of Handlooms of India (1995-96) and Third Handloom Census of India (2009-10) are detailed below:

Sr.No.	Census	Number of Handloom Weavers and Allied Workers (in lakhs)
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1	Second Census (1995-96)	65.50
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2	Third Census (2009-10)	43.31
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Factors identified for the decline of Handloom Sector, inter alia, include,

- (i) competition with mechanized sector such as mill and powerloom Sectors,
- (ii) decline of handloom corporations/Apex Cooperative Societies
- (iii) high cost of credit & low disbursement of credit for the handloom weavers,
- (iv) Choking of cooperative credit lines due to debt over-dues and
- (v) marketing problems etc.

(c) & (d): Although, the number of handloom weavers and allied workers has declined, yet improvement in various other parameters has also been reported in 2009-10 Census over 1995-96 Census. The details are as under:

Sr.No. Indicator 2009-10 Census 1995-96 Census

1.	Man days worked per weaver per annum (days)	234	197
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2. Share of full time weavers to total weavers	64%	44%
3. Share of weaver households reporting less than a metre production	46%	68%
4. Share of Idle looms	4%	10%

(e): For the development of Handloom Sector and welfare of Handloom weavers, five Schemes are under implementation, which are

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

Further, in pursuance of the recommendations of High Level Committee, constituted under Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and keeping in view the observations and suggestion of Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure), a revised package had been submitted to Ministry of Finance, which was under scrutiny. The proposals inter-alia include: (i) Waiver of overdue interest and overdue loans of Societies (ii) Recapitalisation of the balance sheet of Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies and State level Apex Societies with adequate fund support from Government; (iii) Financing the credit needs of handloom weavers/ societies at lower rate of interest with interest subvention etc. Now, in the Budget speech delivered on 28.02.2011, the Finance Minister has announced a financial package in the Annual Budget 2011-12. The package, with a financial implication of Rs. 3000 crores, benefits more than 15000 handloom weavers cooperative societies.