

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2675

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011

SCHEMES FOR WEAVERS

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special scheme for assisting weavers in the Eastern and North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of special grants/grants-in-aid and other monetary assistance provided to the weavers of traditional attires in North and the North-Eastern States during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No Madam. However, a minimum of 10% of the Ministry's Plan budget has to be spent in North-Eastern States. The Government of India is implementing the following five plan schemes in the XIth Five Year Plan for the overall development and welfare of handloom weavers all over the country, including Eastern and North Eastern States:-

1. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme: This scheme provides need based inputs to "Clusters" of 300-500 Handlooms or "Groups" of 10-100 weavers for making them self-sustainable by providing them financial assistance for margin money, working capital, new looms and accessories, skill upgradation, marketing opportunities and for construction of workshed etc.

2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme: This comprises of two separate schemes viz. the Health Insurance Scheme for providing Health Insurance to the Handloom weavers and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for providing Life Insurance Cover in case of natural/ accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident.

3. Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme: This scheme provides marketing opportunities and infrastructure support to enable the handloom weavers to sell their products directly to the consumers in the domestic market.

4. Mill Gate Price Scheme: This scheme makes available all types of yarn at mill gate price. Under the 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.

5. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme: This scheme provides assistance for technological and skill-upgradation of weavers for design and product development through 25 Weavers' Service Centres and 05 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology all over the country to improve the productivity and earnings of the handloom weavers.

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).

(c): A Statement showing State-wise funds released in the country including North and North Eastern States during the last three years and the current year is annexed.