

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1326

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011

SCHEMES FOR HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

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

(a) whether the Government has proposed to modernise the handloom industry in the country to enable them to produce improved varieties of handloom products in view of the rising competition from China and other developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith setting up of more Technology Upgradation Centres in the States including Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to review/discontinue the welfare schemes provided to the Handloom sector and whether any Non-Governmental Organisations/Cooperative societies has suggested for more concessions to handloom weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): In the handloom Sector, the scope of modernization of handlooms is limited as the weaving is done manually without the use of electricity. The Cluster Development Programmes of the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles inter-alia provides for technology up-gradation to produce diversified range of quality handloom products. With this objective, financial assistance has been provided for purchase of handlooms, dobbies, jacquards, accessories, take-up and let-up motions, pilm winding machine etc. Also, Common Facility Centres have been set up in various clusters. At the same time, many existing dye houses have either been up-graded or new ones set up. Further, designers have also been provided to the clusters to provide new and innovative designs for producing new/diversified range of handloom products. At present, there is no scheme of the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles to set up Technology Up-gradation Centres in the States. However, 25 Weavers' Service Centres, including two in Maharashtra at Mumbai and Nagpur are functioning under the Office of the Development commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles to render technical services to the handloom weavers.

(c) & (d): The Government does not propose to discontinue the welfare schemes for handloom weavers. The Office of the Development commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles has constituted a Sub-Group on "Social Welfare Measures and Environmental Compliance" for suggesting suitable social welfare measures for the XII Plan. Suggestions have been received from time to time from various sources, which have been considered appropriately by the Government of India.