

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1131

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011

SCHEMES FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

Chauhan Shri Dara Singh;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Das Shri Khagen;Deshmukh Shri K. D.;Dhanaplan Shri K. P.;Kashinath Shri Taware Suresh;Rani Killi Krupa;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala ;Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance/relief packages including health insurance scheme which are being implemented for the welfare of the handloom/powerloom/paddleloom weavers under various schemes including funds allocated/utilized thereunder during the last two years and the current year, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by the Government to evaluate various schemes being implemented in the States and modify or restructure them;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to improve the pitiable condition of the weavers in the country; and

(d) the further measures taken by the Government for protection of handloom sector from powerloom and mechanized sector?

Answer

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

(a): In the Budget speech for 2011-12 on 28.2.2011, the Finance Minister had announced that the Government of India would provide Rs.3000 crore for implementing the financial package for handloom sector for waiver of overdue loans. As a follow up of the Budget announcement, the Government has now approved the financial package for the handloom sector having a financial implication of Rs.3884 crore. Out of the total amount of Rs. 3884 crore, the share of the Government of India will be Rs. 3137 crore and that of the State Governments will be Rs.747 crore. The package, inter alia, includes i) loan waiver and recapitalization of handloom weavers cooperative societies and that for individual weavers; ii) an interest subvention of 3% for fresh loans for 3 years; iii) provision for credit guarantee. The Government also implements a Health Insurance Scheme providing an annual cover of Rs.15,000 for a weavers' family. So far, 16.89 lakh handloom weavers have been enrolled under this scheme in this policy year. Government of India has also been implementing a number of developmental schemes and programmes to protect the interests and welfare of the handloom/powerloom/paddleloom weavers/workers. Details indicating the year-wise allocation and utilization thereof for both Handloom and Power-loom Sectors are given as under:

Rs. in crore

Sector 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 (till date)

Allocation Utilization Allocation Utilization Allocation Utilization

Handloom 340.00 329.29 426.00 425.51 460.00 210.04

Powerloom 2.60 2.23 2.40 2.24 2.40 1.66

State wise and scheme wise releases in respect of Handloom Sector are at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): Evaluation study has been conducted from time to time in order to obtain the feedback about implementation of programmes at ground level. This facilitates formation of schemes for the subsequent years keeping in view the requirements and needs of the beneficiaries in the changing scenario in the domestic as well as global market. During 11th Five Year Plan, various handloom related schemes have been merged into five schemes for improving the conditions of handloom weavers. These schemes are (i) Integrated

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

In Powerloom Sector also, welfare scheme "Welfare of Powerloom Workers through Group Insurance Scheme(GIS)" has been modified by merging the existing Janashri Bima Yojana (JBY) Scheme and Group Insurance Scheme based on the recommendations of the Evaluation of the Scheme.

(d): The following measures have been taken by the Government of India for protection of handloom sector from powerloom and mechanized sector:

(i) Government of India promulgated the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985, dated the 29th March, 1985, with a view to protect the interests and livelihood of the handloom weavers in the country. Under this Act, 11 items are exclusively reserved for the production by the handloom sector.

(ii) The Geographical indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act also provide legal protection to Geographical Indications of goods etc., and prevent unauthorized use of these by others. Government of India provides financial assistance of Rs.1.50 lakh per product to register under the GI Act. Financial assistance to register 35 items under GI Act has been provided so far.

(iii) The "Handloom Mark" has also been launched on 27th June, 2006 which certified the identity of handloom products and also serves as a guarantee for the buyers that the products being purchased are genuinely hand woven.