

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:242

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011

HANDLOOM CENSUS

Das Shri Khagen;Dubey Shri Nishikant

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

- (a) the number of weavers and allied workers, as per the recently held National Handloom Census, in the country, Statewise;
- (b) whether any assessment was made about the problems and other difficulties particularly occupational diseases faced by weavers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the handloom sector has come under stress due to stiff competition from international markets and unavailability of credit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government for creation of more jobs in handloom sector in view of the rising demand of the handloom products?

**Answer**

(MINISTER OF TEXTILES)(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.242 FOR 12.12.2011.

(a): This Government has conducted the Third Handloom Census in 2010 to ascertain actual numbers of weavers and allied workers across the country. As per the Handloom Census of India (2009-10), the number of handloom weavers and allied workers is 43.31 lakh in the country. The State-wise details are annexed.

(b): Assessments have been made about the problems confronting the Handloom Sector by the Planning Commission's Working Group on Handlooms for Twelfth Plan (2012-17) for the sector. These, inter alia, include (i) competition with mechanized sector such as mills and powerlooms (ii) low productivity of the handlooms in comparison to powerlooms and mill sectors, (iii) weak organizational network and poor marketing, (iv) outdated pre and post weaving activity, (v) capacity constraints, (vi) supply chain bottlenecks, (vii) lack of workshops & modern dye houses, (viii) high cost of credit and low disbursement of credit for the handloom weavers, (ix) choking of credit lines due to debt overhang, and (x) occupational diseases.

(c): The Handloom sector is facing competition from the mechanized sector such as mills and powerlooms and also from the cheap imported fabrics. The flow of credit to the handloom sector has been characterized by high cost, low disbursement levels and choking of credit lines due to debt over-hang.

(d): 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 the Budget speech delivered on 28.02.2011, the Finance Minister has announced a financial package for loan waiver in the Annual Budget 2011-12. Subsequently, the Government has operationalised the Budget announcement by approving the "Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector" with a total financial implication of Rs. 3884 crore, out of which Government of India's share is Rs. 3137 crore and the share of the State Governments is Rs. 747 crore. This intervention will re-open the choked credit lines for the handloom weavers and their societies and will benefits more than 15000 handloom weavers' cooperative societies and about 3 lakh handloom weavers.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 242 FOR 12/12/2011

Number of Handloom Weavers and Allied workers as per Handloom Census of India (2009-10)

S.N. Names of State(s) No. of Weavers (2009-10)

1 Andhra Pradesh 355838

2 Arunachal Pradesh 33041

3 Assam 1643453

4 Bihar 43392  
5 Chhatisgarh 8191  
6 Delhi 2738  
7 Gujarat 11009  
8 Goa 0  
9 Haryana 7967  
10 Himachal Pradesh 13458  
11 Jammu & Kashmir 33209  
12 Jharkhand 21160  
13 Karnataka 89256  
14 Kerala 14679  
15 Madhya Pradesh 14761  
16 Maharashtra 3418  
17 Manipur 218753  
18 Meghalaya 13612  
19 Mizoram 43528  
20 Nagaland 66490  
21 Orissa 114106  
22 Puducherry 2803  
23 Punjab 2636  
24 Rajasthan 31958  
25 Sikkim 568  
26 Tamilnadu 352321  
27 Tripura 137177  
28 Uttar Pradesh 257783  
29 Uttrakhand 15468  
30 West Bengal 779103  
ALL INDIA 4331876