

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2863

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011

PLIGHT OF WEAVERS

Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Kashinath Shri Taware Suresh;Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that weavers belonging to minority community are committing suicide due to their miserable condition in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has constituted a commission to conduct a survey in this regard;
- (c) the details and number of weavers who are living below poverty line in the country and steps taken by the Government to redress their grievances;
- (d) whether the Government has noticed the plight of weavers who are moving from villages to cities in large number for want of employment due to dwindling handloom markets and its several units on the verge of closure; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the weavers in the country?

Answer

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

- (a): No State Government has reported suicides by the weavers belonging to minority community due to their miserable condition.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): As per third All India Handloom census 2009-10, there are 27.8 lakh handloom workers households, out of which 15.85 lakh handloom workers households are living below the poverty line. The Government of India is implementing five Plan schemes through the Development Commissioner for Handlooms during the Eleventh Plan, keeping in mind the welfare requirements, for providing need based interventions for holistic and sustainable development of the handloom sector. Two of these schemes are implemented through the State Governments. The Five schemes are:
 - 1. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)
 - 2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
 - 3. Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)
 - 4. Mill Gate Price Scheme
 - 5. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme
- (d) & (e): As per All India Handloom Census 2009-10, there are 43.32 lakh handloom workers in the country, out of which 36.33 workers live in rural areas and 6.98 workers live in urban areas. The production of handloom fabric and export of handloom products are showing upward trend in the last two years which shows the positive growth of the handloom sector.