

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3821
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2009
SUICIDES BY WEAVERS AND CRAFTSMEN
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of suicides committed by handloom weavers and craftsmen in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, state-wise;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to look into this matter; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the report of the said Committee alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The information were called from all State Governments/Union Territories. Only the following States have reported suicides committed by the Handloom Weavers and the Craftsmen due to poverty, consumption of poison, family disturbance, financial and other domestic problems. The details of suicide committed by handloom weavers and craftsmen during the last 3 years and the current year are as under:

Name of State	2006	2007	2008	2009
	(upto June)			
	Handloom Weavers	Crafts -men	Handloom Weavers	Crafts -men
	Handloom Weavers	Crafts -men	Handloom Weavers	Crafts -men

Andhra 50 - 33 - 48 - 08 -
Pradesh

Orissa 03 - - - 01 - 01 -

Kerala 01 - - - 05 - - -

(c) & (d): The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constituted an Expert Committee on weavers' problems under the Chairmanship of Minister of Finance, Government of Andhra Pradesh. One of the recommendations of the Expert Committee is to sanction financial assistance to the deceased weaver's families, on par with the assistance being provided to the farmer's community in the State. The State Government has also accepted the recommendations and implemented by way of sanction of ex-gratia to the tune of Rs.1.50 lakh, who committed suicide due to poverty, on account of distress caused by the occupational related problems.

This Ministry has constituted a high level committee headed by MD-NABARD to look in to the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the handloom sector. The Financial package for Handloom Sector worth Rs.3000 crore has been sent to Ministry of Finance for their approval. This financial package to handloom sector shall provide:

(i) Financing the credit needs of handloom weavers/societies at 7% rate of interest with interest subvention to NABARD and banks from Government of India.

(ii) Waiver of overdue loans and interest in respect of Weavers/PWCs/Apex Societies.

Government of India is also implementing number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom

sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the following schemes have been formulated for upliftment of handloom sector:-

- a. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme
- b. Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
- c. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- d. Mill Gate Price Scheme
- e. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme