

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4999

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012

WEAVERS SERVICE CENTRES .

Annayyagari Shri Sai Prathap;Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Weavers Service Centres and handloom clusters set up/being set up in the country particularly in Nagaland, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand including the reasons for delay if any in setting up of these centres alongwith funds allocated/spent during the last three years;
- (b) the efforts made by the Government to revive the nearly lost traditional skill of weaving in textiles across the country and remedial steps taken to provide employment to the unemployed weavers in the country;
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to review the financial assistance in view of larger concentration of weavers in the eastern Uttar Pradesh districts;
- (d) the number of representation received by the Government from cooperative institutions and other organisations of handloom weavers for improving the condition of the handloom industry, State-wise;
- (e) the details of facilities likely to be provided in future to the handloom weavers for their upliftment, State-wise; and
- (f) the total number of handloom weavers in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): There are 25 Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) functioning in various parts of the country. In addition, 4 mega clusters, 20 medium size clusters and 610 small clusters have been provided financial assistance in the 11th Plan. The State wise details are enclosed in Annexure I. 3 new WSCs in Nagaland, Mizoram and Jharkhand have been approved by the Government in the Budget for 2012-13.

(b): During 11th Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12), five schemes were under implementation for the development of the handloom sector to maintain the traditional weaving skills and to provide employment opportunities to handloom weavers. These are (i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme; (ii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme; (iii) Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme; (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme; and (v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

(c): In the Budget speech on 28.02.2011, the Finance Minister had announced a financial package for loan waiver in the Annual Budget 2011-12. Subsequently, the Government has operationalized the Budget announcement by approving the "Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector" on 24.11.2012 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, benefitting about 15000 handloom weavers' cooperative societies and about 3 lakh handloom weavers across the country including weavers in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh districts.

The other weavers, who are not benefited under the financial package, are provided with cheap credit and covered under the 'Comprehensive Package for the Handloom Sector'. This package addresses the twin needs of credit and yarn for this sector. Credit related interventions are operationalized through Integrated Handloom Scheme and these interventions are (i) Issuance of Weaver Credit Cards (ii) Interest Subvention @ 3% on fresh loan sanctioned, (iii) Margin Money @ Rs.4200 per individual weaver (but not for cooperative societies) and (iv) Credit Guarantee.

In Uttar Pradesh, 35 camps have been organized so far for awareness creation and for collecting applications for Weaver Credit Card (WCC) and 17193 applications have been received for WCC.

(d) From time to time, representations have been received from cooperative institutions and other organizations of handloom weavers which are suitably replied and suitable action taken, accordingly.

(e) Action Plan for the development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers are prepared on year to year basis. The targets for the Annual Plan 2012-13 have been fixed. The details are given in Annexure II.

(f) Assessment for number of handloom weavers is generally done after a gap of 15 years. Such an exercise has been done in the year 2009-10. The number of handloom weavers in the country as per Handloom Census of India (2009-10) is given in Annexure III.