

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7290

ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012

CENSUS OF HANDICRAFTS HANDLOOM

Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Rani Killi Krupa;Tudu Shri Laxman;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to collect information regarding number of persons engaged in handicrafts industry and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to improve the skill of the workers engaged in Handicraft, stone carving and metal carving industry particularly in Odisha and steps taken by the Government to provide market support to sell their products in India/globally and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of male and female weavers/artisans as per latest census in the country, State-wise alongwith the census of Kumhar (potter) involving in their art in Odisha;
- (d) whether the women weavers are full time weavers in the range between 65 percent to 79 percent and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has noticed that the benefits of the schemes for weavers/artisans are being given to fake claimants during the last three years;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken in this regard; and
- (g) the steps taken/action plan made by the Government to promote handicraft industry during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam. The census of handicrafts artisans is in progress. However as per the result made available on different parameters pertaining to handicraft sector based on enumeration undertaken till now, it is estimated that the number of artisans in the country is 68.86 lakhs.

(b): Yes, Madam. To improve the skill of workers engaged in handicrafts including Stone Carving and Metal Carving industry in Odisha, the Government is implementing the scheme of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY), Human Resource Development and Design and Technological Upgradation.

Through Market Support Services Scheme of the Government, artisans are encouraged to participate in Gandhi Shilp Bazars, Craft Bazars, Sourcing Shows and Exhibitions etc. Besides Government have set up 21 Urban Haat on the pattern of Dilli Haat in big towns/metropolitan cities to provide direct marketing facilities to handicraft artisans/handloom weavers.

Moreover, under the component of International Marketing of the Marketing Support Services Scheme, artisans are deputed for participation in cultural exchange programme/craft exchange programme in international events/exhibitions etc.

(c): The number of male and females handicraft artisans in the country including of Kumhar (Potter) of Orissa is estimated as 30.25 lakhs and 38.61 lakhs respectively. However the State-wise figures shall only be known once the census of handicrafts artisans is completed.

As per Handloom Census of India (2009-10), there are 29,08,800 Adult Handloom Weavers across the country. Of this, 22,03,038 are Female weavers. State-wise details is given in the annexure.

(d): Percentage of full time women weavers is more than 65% in most of the States except North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand. State-wise details of women weavers, who are full time, are also given in the same annexure.

(e): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

(g): The steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote handicrafts sector during the Twelfth Five Year Plan include:

implementation of schemes of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY), Design & Technology Up-gradation Scheme, Marketing Support Services Scheme, Research & Development Scheme, Human Resource Development Scheme and Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme. Two New scheme namely 'special scheme for North Eastern Region' and Infrastructure Development has been proposed under 12th Five Year Plan.