

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:174
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012
LABOURERS IN HANDLOOM SECTOR
Patel Shri Bal Kumar

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether handloom sector is one of the largest employers in the Country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether instances of denial of minimum wages and violation of labour laws has been reported from this sector;
- (d) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years, and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 174 FOR 26.03.2012 BY SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL REGARDING LABOURERS IN HANDLOOM SECTOR.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. According to the information furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), 43.32 lakh handloom weavers and ancillary workers are engaged in handloom weaving activities as per the 3rd Handloom Census of India (2009-10).

(c) & (d): Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Handloom Sector comes under the State sphere and the State/UT Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise the rate of minimum wages for workers in this sector. The payment of minimum rates of wages to these workers is to be statutorily ensured by the State/UT Governments as per the provisions contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

According to the information available in the Ministry of Labour & Employment, 25 States/Union Territory Governments have notified Textile Industry, Readymade Garment Manufactory, Handloom Industry, Power loom Industry and Khadi & Village Industry as a Scheduled Employment under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. No specific information is available in the Ministry of Labour & Employment about the denial of minimum wages and violation of labour laws in this sector.

(e): The Minimum Wages Act contains provision for penal action for violation of the Act. The officers designated as Inspectors are empowered to carry out necessary measures under the Act. At the first instance they advise the defaulting employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance of the advice, there are provisions of prosecution in the Act against the defaulting employers.