

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3368

ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012

ARTISAN WELFARE FUND TRUST

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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the works undertaken by Artisan Welfare Fund Trust (AWFT) in the country;
- (b) the number of artisans covered under AWFT indicating the total number of artisans in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to cover all the artisans under AWFT;
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the working of AWFT; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): Artisans Welfare Funds (AWFs) have been created to provide security and assistance to artisans, and are managed through Artisans Welfare Funds Trusts (AWFTs). Khadi institutions registered with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) are required to contribute 12 % of wages of artisans to AWFs. In the case of death of an artisan, the entire amount to his credit is paid to his legal heir or nominee. An artisan who has been subscribing to the fund for at least one year can withdraw the amount standing to his credit to meet a variety of expenses such as children's education, marriage, medical treatment, housing, purchasing equipment, child birth, buy khadi on festivals, death rites, etc.

(b): The State-wise number of AWFTs and artisans covered thereunder is given at Annex I.

(c): The membership of the AWFTs has been made mandatory for all 'A+', 'A', 'B' and 'C' category khadi and polyvastra producing institutions.

(d)&(e): No complaints as such have been received in the Ministry regarding the working of AWFTs. Complaints received in KVIC are dealt with in normal course by KVIC on a continuing basis.