

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:569

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

CONDITION OF WEAVERS

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

(a) the number of handloom weavers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of weavers who have been issued photo identity/credit cards according to latest handloom census, State wise including Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government for development of this sector including funds allocated/released and utilised under various schemes during the last two years and the current year, scheme-wise, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the weavers engaged in their traditional occupation are being compelled to adopt another alternative occupation in many parts of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the measures being taken by the Government to ameliorate the pitiable condition of weavers particularly in Maharashtra and Jharkhand?

**Answer**

(MINISTER OF TEXTILES) (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a): As per all India Handloom Census (200910), 43.31 lakh handloom weavers and ancillary workers are engaged in handlooms sector. State wise details are given in the Annexure-I.

(b): So far 3112912 weavers have been issued Identity Cards, out of which 169610 weavers are covered in Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, 12454 Credit Cards have been issued so far, out of which 4151 weavers have been covered in Uttar Pradesh. State wise details are given Annexure-II.

(c): For overall development of handlooms and welfare of handlooms, Government of India is implementing following schemes/programs:

Comprehensive Package for the Handloom Sector: To meet the two critical needs of cheap credit and cheap hank yarn for the handloom sector, the Government has approved a comprehensive package for handloom sector. The components of comprehensive package are implemented through two existing Plan schemes i.e. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme for availability of cheap credit, and Mill Gate Price Scheme for availability of subsidized hank yarn. For easy credit availability to handloom weaver, the Government of India will provide margin money assistance @ Rs.4200/- per weaver, interest subvention at 3% per annum for 3 years. To ensure yarn availability at reasonable prices, 10% price subsidy on domestic silk yarn and cotton yarn have been approved by the Government of India. Further the rate of freight reimbursement for transportation of different types of yarn has also been enhanced suitably in order to offset the increase in fuel cost. The projected financial outlay involved in the implementation of these proposals during the last financial year 2011-12 and the 12th Plan period is Rs.2362.15 crore. 3 lakh handloom weavers and 15,000 cooperative societies are already covered under the Financial Package.

In addition to above, the Government of India is also implementing following 5 schemes keeping in mind the welfare measures and providing need based interventions for holistic and sustainable development of the handloom sector and to improve the condition of the weavers:-

(i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme provides need based inputs to clusters of 300 – 500 handlooms or Groups of 10 – 100 weavers for making them self-sustainable by providing them financial assistance for margin money, new looms and accessories, skill up-gradation, marketing opportunities and for construction of work-sheds etc. Details are given in Annexure-III.

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme provides platform to the weavers and their organizations to participate in the domestic as well as international trade events and sell their products directly to the buyers. Details are available in Annexure-III.

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme: This comprises of two separate schemes viz. the Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) for providing Health Insurance to the Handloom weavers and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for

providing Life Insurance Cover in case of natural/ accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident. Details are given in Annexure-IV.

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme: This scheme makes available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom agencies to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom weavers. The transport and depot operating expenses are being borne by the Government of India. Recently, from January, 2012 onward one more component of 10% subsidy has been included in the scheme under which a weaver entitled for 30 kg cotton yarn below 40 count or 10 kg about 40 count upto 80 counts of 4 kg of silk per loom per month. The scheme is available for Apex and Primary cooperative societies, handloom corporations, self-help groups, joint liability group and NGO covered under CAPART norms. Details of funds released under this scheme are available at Annexure-V.

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme: This scheme provides assistance for technological and skill-up gradation of weavers for design and product development through 25 Weavers' Service Centres and 05 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology all over the country to improve the productivity and earnings of the handloom weavers. Moreover, three more WSCs and one IIHT have also been approved in the last year budget of 2011-12.

No State wise amount of central assistance allocated under these schemes/programmes. However, amount of central assistance released on the basis of viable proposal(s) received from the State Government(s) and amount of central assistance is released in installments.

(d) & (e): There has been no compulsion reported from any quarter to switch over for the weaver(s) engaged in the traditional handloom weaving. In fact, Government has put its all-out efforts to encourage sustenance of this heritage of weaving by supporting weavers through various schemes/programs as already narrated above throughout the country including that of Maharashtra and Jharkhand.