

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:336  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012  
HANDICRAFT SECTOR  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) the number of artisans working in the handicraft sector in the country, Statewise;
- (b) the details of the contribution of handicraft sector to the Indian economy through export during the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the handicraft sector and prepare it to compete with machine-made products?

**Answer**

(MINISTER OF TEXTILES)(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 336 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2012 RAISED BY SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI REGARDING HANDICRAFT SECTOR.

(a): As per the census of handicrafts artisans conducted during 1995-96, the number of handicrafts artisans in the country was 47.61 lakhs. The State-wise number of handicrafts artisans is as per annexure-I attached.

(b): The export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets during the last three years and current year is as under:-

Year	Exports (Rs. in crores)
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2009-10	11224.27
2010-11	13526.66
2011-12	16851.27
2012-13 (upto Nov. 2012)	12157.21

(c): Government has taken several measures for development and sustainability of the handicrafts Sector, which include:-

(i) Cluster development programmes under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana under which assistance is provided for skill development, design inputs, marketing, distribution of improved tools, establishment of common facility centres, raw-material banks etc.

(ii) Marketing Support & Services under which direct marketing platform is provided to the artisans to sell their products through Gandhi Shilp Bazars, Craft Bazars and exhibitions.

(iii) Assistance for conducting design workshops to improve quality of the products under Design and Technology Upgradation scheme.

(iv) Assistance for skill development and capacity building of artisans under Human Resource Development scheme.

(v) For promotion of exports, assistance for participation in international exhibitions, buyers sellers meet, reverse buyer seller meets and duty credit scrips under focus product scheme and focus market schemes are provided.