

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2929
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013
ARTISAN WELFARE FUND TRUST
Alagiri Shri S. ;Tudu Shri Laxman

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 benefited under AWFT alongwith the total number of artisans in the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken being taken by the Government to cover all the artisans under AWFT?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENT CHARGE) FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a): Khadi Institutions enlisted with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/ Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) of States / Union Territories are required to create Artisan Welfare Fund Trusts (AWFTs) with a view to extending security and other help to artisans. The works undertaken by the AWFTs include providing financial help required by the artisans in their hours of need such as daughter's marriage, medical treatment, education of children, construction of house/purchase of property etc. Amount accruing to Artisan Welfare Fund (AWF) is kept in fixed deposits in nationalized Banks. Khadi institutions are required to contribute 12 percent of wages of artisans to AWF whose benefit is extended to all artisans except those who are salaried employees of khadi institutions. Separate accounts in respect of each artisan showing the subscriptions made by him / her together with the contribution made by the institution are maintained. Each artisan, subscribing to this fund is issued a pass book by the khadi institution. In the case of death of an artisan, the entire amount to his/her credit in AWFTs is paid to his/her legal heirs or nominees.

(b): State-wise total number of artisans actively engaged in spinning and weaving and the number of artisans covered under AWFTs (as on 31.03.2012) is given at Annex.

(c): To cover all khadi artisans under AWFTs, KVIC has made membership of AWFTs mandatory for all khadi and polyvastra institutions affiliated to KVIC and state KVI Boards. KVIC also circulated a model trust deed for such AWFTs which, inter alia, provides for supervision of the functioning of these Trusts by the Board of Trustees of AWFTs.