

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2152

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

PLIGHT OF WEAVERS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study for upliftment of handloom industries to display their skills;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the handloom weavers in the country are continuing to leave their traditional work and forced to join other alternative employment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise including Maharashtra along with the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to them;
- (e) whether the handloom weavers are not getting design as per the market demand;
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with facilities being provided by the Government to develop the design and marketing their products in the country, State-wise; and
- (g) whether any study has been undertaken by the Government to ascertain the number of persons employed in the handloom sector at present and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SMT. PANABAAGA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): No such specific study has been conducted, however, the Government is aware about the need for upliftment of handloom industries to display their skills. The Government of India has been implementing various handloom schemes for development and welfare of handloom weavers. As regards skill development during 2011-12, a new scheme, "Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS)" has been introduced to upgrade skill of weavers/workers.

(c) & (d): As per handloom census of 1995-96, the total population of weavers and allied workers was 65.51 lakh whereas, according to the census of 2009-10, their numbers were reduced to 43.32 lakh. This is due to the fact that handloom sector is facing many constraints/problems throughout the country such as low productivity, stiff competition from powerloom and mill sector, inadequate inputs supply and marketing facilities/channels as well as insufficient credit flow from institutional sources. The state wise weavers population and allied workers including Maharashtra is given on Annexure 'A'.

For the overall development of handloom sector and handloom weavers, including employment generation, the Government of India has taken various policy initiatives and schemes interventions like cluster approach, technological up-gradation, marketing promotion, revival of viable and potentially viable societies through loan waiver and recapitalization assistance, availability of subsidized yarn and credit, besides, providing health and life insurance cover to the handloom weavers. The financial assistance towards various inputs is available under the following handloom schemes:-

- (i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme.
- (ii) Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme.
- (iii) Handloom Weaver's Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
- (iv) Diversified Handlooms Development Scheme.
- (v) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (vi) Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package as well as Comprehensive Package for Handloom Sector.

(e) & (f): Across the country, Ministry of Textiles has established 25 Weavers Service Centres, which, inter alia, provide designs to handloom weavers, exporters, producer companies etc. There are currently total 47 designers posted in these centres. Beside, the

Government of India is providing financial support for design development, product diversification and publicity & marketing under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme. The funds released from 2007-08 to 2012-13 (upto 06.03.2013) are given in Annexure 'B'. For marketing, Government of India provides financial assistance to State Governments/ State Handloom agencies to organise marketing events like National Handloom Expos, Special Handloom Expos, District Level Events etc. to market handloom products under Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme. The number of marketing events sanctioned to various States during last 2 years and the current year is given as per Annexure 'C'

(g): Yes, Madam the Government of India ascertains the number of persons employed in the handloom sector by carrying out Handloom Census. Last handloom census was conducted in 2009-10. State-wise details are at Annexure 'A'.