

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4386
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN TEXTILES
Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of labour in textiles and handloom sector due to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the low-end household weavers are moving out of the profession as they find MGNREGA wages more attractive;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its likely impact on textile production and export earning of the country and the steps taken by the Government to provide required manpower to the textiles and handloom industry;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to include weaving under MGNREGA; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Textile is a labour intensive industry. Government has no information regarding shortage of labour in textiles. However, in the Handloom sector, as per the census of 1995 -96, the total population of the weavers and allied workers was 65.5 lacs which has come down to 43.3 lacs in the year 2009-10, primarily due to low productivity, stiff competition from powerloom and mill sector, inadequate inputs supply and marketing facilities/channels, insufficient credit flow from institutional sources and also MGNREGA. However the handloom production has not felt any significant impact as per the data of production of last 10 years as given under:-

(In Million Sq. Mtrs)

2003-4 2004-5 2005-6 2006-7 2007-8 2008-9 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 (Upto Jan.)

5493 5722 6108 6536 6947 6677 6806 6907 6901 5759

For the overall development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers, 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.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.