

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5377

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013

MEGA HANDLOOM CLUSTERS

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of mega handloom clusters/handloom clusters set up in the country and the number of weavers and their families who are dependent directly or indirectly on such clusters, State-wise;
- (b) the details of technological and financial assistance being provided by the Government along with funds allocated/ utilised during the last three years on these clusters, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such clusters in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the criteria and norms adopted in setting up these clusters including any recommendations received from the States and follow up action taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise? 3FHT

Answer

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

(a) & (b): 6 mega handloom clusters have been taken up for development as announced in the Budget 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2012-13. As per the guidelines of the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), each mega handloom cluster covers at least 25,000 handlooms and is developed in a period of 5 years with Government of India's share upto Rs.70.00 crore per cluster.

In addition, Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (IHCDS) was introduced during 2005-06, wherein 20 handloom clusters, each having about 5000 handloom were taken up for their integrated and holistic development with the Government of India's share upto Rs.2.00 crore. Besides, in XI Plan, under Cluster Development Approach, clusters each having 300-500 handlooms were taken up for their integrated & holistic development in a period of 3 years at an upper cost of Rs.60.00 lakh per cluster. Under the scheme, funds were released for conducting diagnostic study, formation of self help groups, consortia, technology up-gradation, setting up of common facility centre/dye house, raw material support, skill up-gradation, design development and product diversification, publicity & marketing, purchase of new looms, dobby, jacquard, accessories, margin money, construction of worksheds etc.

A statement showing State-wise number of clusters sanctioned, number of beneficiary covered and amount released/utilized during the last 3 years is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): New clusters will be taken up for their holistic development on need basis under the proposed `Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme (CHDS)` during 12th plan period. The scheme will have two categories of clusters, first, cluster having 200-500 handlooms and second, cluster having 2000-5000 handlooms. The cluster having 200-500 handlooms are proposed to be developed with maximum Government of India's share of Rs.75.00 lakh and the cluster having 2000-5000 handlooms are proposed to be developed with maximum Government of India's share of Rs.150.00 lakh. These clusters are proposed to be developed in a time period of 4 years. As regards setting up of additional mega handloom clusters, representations have been received from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Manipur and Bihar. However, additional mega handloom clusters are taken up only after the announcement in the Budget and subject to availability of budgetary allocation.