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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR  
(2009-2010)**

**FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF TEXTILES**

**[Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations  
contained in the Thirty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Labour  
on the `Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector']**

**SIXTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

*December, 2009/ Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)*

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on the `Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector']**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2009**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2009**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

*December, 2009/ Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)*

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR  
(2009-2010)**

**SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL-CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS  
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Shri P. Balram (Mahabubabad)
4. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
5. Shri Sudarshan Bhagat
6. Shri Hassan Khan
7. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
8. Shri P. Lingam
9. Shri Hari Manjhi
10. Shri P.R. Natarajan
11. Km. Mausam Noor
12. Shri S. Pakkirappa
13. Shri Ramkishun
14. Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy
15. Shri Chandu Lal Sahu
16. Shri Murari Lal Singh
- \*\*\*17. Shri Raj Babbar
18. Vacant
19. Vacant
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

**RAJYA SABHA**

22. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy
23. Shri Rudra Narayan Pany
- \*\*24. Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal
25. Shri Rajaram
26. Smt. Renubala Pradhan
27. Shri G.N. Ratanpuri
- \*28. Shri Mohammad Adeeb
29. Vacant
30. Vacant
31. Vacant

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\* Changed the nomination from Committee on Labour to Committee on Commerce w.e.f. 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.

\*\* Expired on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.

\*\*\* Nominated w.e.f. 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2009.

## SECRETARIAT

- |                        |   |                            |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri Devender Singh | - | Joint Secretary            |
| 2. Shri B.S. Dahiya    | - | Director                   |
| 3. Shri Ashok Sajwan   | - | Additional Director        |
| 4. Shri Suresh Kumar   | - | Senior Executive Assistant |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Labour (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the 'Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector'.

2. The Thirty-Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 24.10.2008. The Ministry of Textiles furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 24.2.2009. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Labour at their sitting held on 11.11.2009.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Labour (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

4. For the facility of reference and convenience recommendations/observations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;

11<sup>th</sup> Novemeber, 2009

20 Kartika, 1931 (Saka)

*HEMANAND BISWAL*

CHAIRMAN,

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **REPORT**

1. This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector' pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Thirty-Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 24.10.2008. It contained 12 recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the recommendations have been received and have been categorized as under:-

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government--Paragraph Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 12.
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply - NIL
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration--Paragraph Sl. No. 8.
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature--Paragraph Sl. Nos. 2, 6, 9 and 11.

**3. The Committee desire that action taken notes in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken notes in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-V for which only interim replies have been given by the Government may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than 3 months of the presentation of this Report.**

4. The Committee will now deal with the action taken replies of the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

## **A. Census of artisans**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 2 Para 13)**

5. The Committee in their original Report observed that the existing process of conducting census for handicraft artisans by covering 20% districts every year, was cumbersome and skewed as it would not bring out the exact figures of artisans in the country because by the time census of last phase took place, the figure in areas wherein the census was carried out in the first phase might have changed drastically. The Committee, therefore, recommended that it would be in the fitness of things if a one time survey was carried out to cover the entire strength of artisans all over the country and the current process of covering 20% of the districts every year should be continued thereafter to keep the data updated.

6. In their action taken reply, the Ministry stated that :

‘The recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee to have one time survey i.e. 100% census conducted, has been referred to the competent authority, for approval. Since the methodology of conducting 100% census is a shift from the existing policy of conducting census of 20% districts every year, the change in policy has to be decided by the competent authority and requires subsequent approvals including from the Planning Commission. This process will take more time. It has, therefore, been decided to carry on with the census on the basis of present policy covering further 20% districts in the country this year i.e. 2008-09 and the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee to conduct 100% census, shall be implemented w.e.f. the next financial year i.e. 2009-10 after the acceptance and approvals of the competent authority as aforesaid. A proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Internal Finance Wing and will be taken up thereafter with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance etc.’



**7. The Committee take note of the Ministry's assurance that the census operations shall be undertaken throughout the country in the next financial year i.e. 2009-10, after the subsequent approvals of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. The Committee desire that entire census needs to be conducted within the current financial year so that realistic targets could be fixed under various developmental and welfare schemes well before implementing them in the next financial year i.e. 2010-11.**

**B. Low coverage under the schemes for Handicrafts Sector**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 3 Para 18)**

8. The Committee in their Report, considering the very low coverage under the developmental and welfare schemes of handicrafts sector recommended that all out efforts should be made to cover the entire strength of artisans within the current Five Year Plan, particularly under the welfare schemes. For the purpose, the targets under each of the schemes should be revised accordingly and if needed be, the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission should be urged to enhance the budgetary allocations to meet the increased targets.

9. In their action taken reply, the Ministry stated that :

~The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. It will be the sincere efforts of the Government to cover large number of handicraft artisans through the six plan schemes approved for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee's recommendations with specific reference to coverage of larger number of artisans under the Welfare Scheme has also been noted. In first 2 years of the plan period, physical coverage under the welfare schemes has been achieved more than what had been envisaged in the projections under the welfare scheme submitted for approval before the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The increased physical coverage had been due to the reason that the actual annual premium

under the health scheme determined after a competitive bidding process at the beginning of the Plan period had come out to be significantly lower than what was assumed while making physical and financial projections under scheme submitted for approval at the beginning of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.'

**10. The Committee take note of the assurance given by the Ministry to cover large number of handicrafts artisans under the developmental and welfare schemes during the remaining period of 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The Committee, while appreciating the efforts of the Ministry for achieving the physical targets more than the initial projections under Janashree Bima Yojana and Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana during the first two years of the plan period, urge them to demonstrate similar performance under other developmental and welfare schemes also so that the needy artisans can also receive benefits of these schemes and sustain in the sector progressively.**

**C. Travel assistance to artisans**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 6 Para 39)**

11. The Committee in their Report further recommended that the limit of distance considered for providing travel assistance to the artisans who wished to take part in various handicraft exhibitions, should have been reduced from existing 500 kms. to at least 100 kms so that it did not prove an obstacle for the needy artisans to exhibit their skills. Similarly, some arrangements like plying special buses should have been arranged for the artisans residing/working within the radius of 100 kms. of the exhibition venue.

12. In their action taken reply, the Ministry stated that :

‘During the 11<sup>th</sup> Five year Plan the facility of payment of TA/DA to artisans which earlier was paid to artisans from some identified and difficult localities has been extended to all the artisans who come to participate in a market related activity from a distance of and more than 500 kms. from and to their place of residences. The acceptance of the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Labour to relax the rules for payment of TA/DA to artisans participating in Market related programmes of this office reducing the distance from approved 500 Kms to 100 Kms. requires the approval of the competent authority. A proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Planning Commission.’

**13. The Committee note that the Ministry have submitted the proposal to reduce the limit of distance from 500 kms. to 100 kms. for the purpose of paying TA/DA to artisans who participate in the marketing events relating to handicrafts, to the Planning Commission for approval. The Committee are of the opinion that as it is a welfare measure, the Ministry should take up the matter with the Planning Commission with top priority and expeditious approval. The Committee also reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that some local transport arrangements at the time of conducting marketing events should also be made for the artisans residing/working within the radius of 100 kms. of the exhibition venue as such step will not only encourage the artisans to participate in these exhibitions but will also help spread awareness of handicrafts products/Industry among the common masses.**

#### **D. Training and financial assistance to artisans**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 8 Para 55)**

14. The Committee in their Report, while noting the lower coverage of artisans under training programmes recommended that training of artisans was of utmost importance for their sustainable growth and to achieve this, though in a phased manner, a proper and well thought out strategy might be devised to continue it on a regular basis. The publicity of such programmes be adequately given amongst the artisans for achieving maximum coverage and to make them aware about the benefits of these trainings. The proposal for soft loan to artisans under Design and Technological Upgradation Scheme should have been also mooted with the provision of buy back arrangements of finished products against such loan.

15. In their action taken reply, the Ministry stated that:

‘This is already taken care of, under different components of the existing Human Resource Development Scheme implemented by this office. The range of these trainings provided varies from skill development under the tutelage of Master craftperson and specialized institutional trainings. A wide publicity of all the schemes including that of the HRD Scheme is regularly ensured through press advertisement for creating awareness among the stake- holders. As regards soft loan to artisans under Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme, it is submitted that as of now there is no such enabling provision in the existing approved schemes of this office. However, under the Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana there is a component of Credit Guarantee Scheme through which the Government of India bears the cost of Guarantee Fee and Annual Service Charges, which is paid to Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for micro, medium and small enterprises for obtaining guarantee cover in respect of the credit sanctioned to the handicraft artisans by different Member Lending Institutes (MLIs) *i.e.* Banks. This arrangement is applicable in respect of credit sanctioned to both artisans and Self Help Groups (SHGs).’

16. The Committee notice that the Ministry/Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) are providing training to artisans under different components of 'Human Resource Development Scheme' and wide publicity of all the Schemes is regularly ensured through press advertisement for creating awareness among the stakeholders. However, reply of the Ministry is silent regarding fixing periodicity of various training programmes being organized by them. Since the major population of artisans belongs to an unorganized sector and are working in individual capacity, they cannot afford to go for training unless they get time to plan for the same well in advance. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the artisans can avail the benefits of training programmes in a better way and in larger number if they are aware of the schedule of such programmes in the very beginning of the year. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation and urge upon the Ministry to prepare a definite schedule of training programmes to be organized under different schemes throughout the year. The Committee further desire that the credit guarantee scheme which is a component of Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, and under which loans are provided to the artisans, should be restructured and the provision of buyback arrangements of finished products against loans availed by artisans, should also be suitably incorporated into it.

**E. Raising ceiling under Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Yojana**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 9 Para 62)**

17. The Committee, keeping in view the ever increasing medical expenses recommended that the ceiling under the Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Yojana should be raised from Rs.15,000 to atleast Rs.1,50,000 per annum per family. The Committee also recommended that the critical illnesses like cancer, heart problems, brain surgery etc. should also have been brought within the ambit of the scheme with appropriate financial ceiling.

18. In their action taken reply, the Ministry stated that:

‘The recommendations concerning raising the ceiling of coverage as well as inclusion of critical illness has been examined. It is felt that these enhancements in the coverage of benefits may yield in substantial hike in the annual premium, which at present is Rs.800/- per annum per artisan. Out of this, the general category artisan contributes Rs.150/- and an artisan belonging to NER, SC, ST & BPL categories contributes Rs.75/-. The Government of India contributes the balance annual premium and Service Tax on the total premium. If the sharing of the future premium between the artisan and GOI is kept in the existing proportion, there would be an apparent hike in the artisan’s share of the annual premium as well, which all artisans may not be able to afford. Therefore, in view of the recommendation, action has been initiated for a new add-on feature to be introduced in the scheme for covering 10 critical illnesses *viz.*, Cancer, Paralysis, Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack), Bye pass Surgery, Kidney failure, Stroke, Tuberculosis etc., with a financial cap of Rs.1.5 lakh per annum per artisan family. Artisan who is willing to pay the higher premium could opt for this feature. A suitable proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Planning Commission.’

**19. The Committee find that in order to cover critical illnesses under Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Yojana, the Ministry have proposed to introduce a new add-on feature with a financial cap of Rs.1.5 lakh per annum per artisan/family. The Ministry have further stated that the artisan who is willing to pay the higher**

premium could opt for this feature. The Committee are astonished to note such business like attitude of the Ministry where the poor artisans are being treated as customers. Instead of providing them adequate health coverage, which is a part of social security measure, the Ministry are, in a way, trying to sell insurance policy to them. The Committee observe that such a cursory approach of the Ministry does not reflect the seriousness of the issue it merits. The plea of the Ministry that enhancing financial ceiling from the existing Rs.15,000/- to Rs.1,50,000/- for providing general health coverage and covering critical illnesses under the scheme, may yield in substantial hike in the annual premium which all artisans may not be able to afford, is not acceptable to the Committee. At present, the premium is being shared by the Government of India and the artisan. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), through which the scheme is being implemented being a public sector company, should not shirk its social responsibility towards the handicrafts artisans who are from the disadvantaged strata of society. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation and urge upon the Ministry to act in a positive manner and extend the critical illness cover to the handicrafts artisans and also enhance the financial ceiling to atleast Rs.1,50,000/-. With regard to sharing of premium, the Committee desire that Government of India and LIC may share the hiked premium on the lines of welfare schemes being implemented in Handloom Sector. Such a philanthropic step will not only extend the desired insurance coverage to the needy artisans but they will also be spared of the extra financial obligations arising due to the extended coverage.

## **F. Enhancement of age of artisans under Bima Yojana**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 11 Para 69)**

20. The Committee, in the light of the fact that the artisan of higher age group were also contributing to the development of the handicrafts sector and the life expectancy in our country has also considerably gone up in their Report, recommended that the age for the purpose of insurance coverage under the Bima Yojana should be enhanced at least upto 70 years.

21. In their action taken reply, the Ministry stated that :

‘Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a proposal was made to LIC of India on 22.08.2008, requesting consideration of, among others, the following issues:

- Enhancing the age limit from 60 years to 70 years
- Increase in Children Education Allowance from Rs.300 per quarter per child to 2 children to Rs.500.

On the issue of increasing the age limit to 70 years, LIC has asked for likely number of persons to be covered under the scheme. The same is being furnished to them.’

**22. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry have on the recommendation of the Committee have submitted a proposal to LIC for the welfare of the artisans of higher age group, who were, so far, deprived of Life Insurance cover and similarly, LIC has requested the Ministry to provide likely number of persons to be covered under the Scheme. The Committee desire that the Ministry should provide the requisite data to LIC at the earliest so that, after completing other necessary procedural formalities, the artisans upto the age of 70 years may also get the benefits of the Scheme.**



## **CHAPTER-II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para 8)**

The Committee take note of the fact that formulation of various schemes in handicraft sector and corresponding budgetary allocations are just not adequate to tap full potential of the artisans in the country. Based on the census of artisans conducted in the year 1995-96, the schemes framed cover only miniscule of artisans and the relative allocation under the schemes is also not fully utilized. The expenditure under the schemes which cover common artisans like Training and Extension, Design and Technology Upgradation, Marketing Support and Services and Research and Development has been far from satisfactory during the entire Tenth Plan. After noticing the trend of less budgetary utilization, a series of measures were stated to be taken by the Government including rationalization of planning schemes and introduction of 11 generic schemes. Despite all these measures, even from the lesser allocation of Rs.425 crore for the handicraft sector during the Tenth Plan Period, approximately Rs.50 crore could not be spent due to lack of proper and adequate planning of the schemes. Identical reasons like non- receipt of viable proposals from implementing agencies, non settlement of pending utilization certificates, non completion of SIDC projects, less demand from implementing agencies etc. have been given for non fulfillment of targets and less utilization of budgetary allocations repeatedly.

The allocation for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period is Rs.1257 crore practically trebling it from the one allocated during the Tenth Plan Period. As the Government has been unable to undertake any census of artisans after the last census done in 1995-96, schemes for development and welfare of handicraft sector and artisans will have to be formulated on the basis of the figures of last census. Taking cue from the past experience the Government should ensure that reasons cited for non fulfillment of targets resulting in less budgetary utilization are pre-empted before the formulation of schemes for artisans and handicraft sector during the current Plan Period. The Committee also recommend that enhanced targets alongwith the matching budgetary allocations under each of the scheme having impact on wider segment of artisans should be fixed. The Committee also expect that wide publicity of the schemes would be given among the targeted groups and the monitoring of the schemes be done at regular intervals to ensure that the targets fixed for the schemes are achieved in a time bound manner and funds allocated are gainfully utilized.

## **Reply of the Government**

The targets are fixed on year-to-year basis and are subject to periodical review and assessment to determine if any revision is required. The budgetary allocation in the first two years of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan namely 2007-08 and 2009-10 is as per the amounts approved in the SFC/EFC & CCEA note of the respective schemes.

Every scheme has now a component of publicity and separate budget is earmarked for it. Wide publicity of the schemes amongst the target groups through newspaper advertisements at National, Regional and local levels is a regular and continuous feature now. Publicity of schemes is also made through workshops/seminars being organized at local, State and National levels. The monitoring of the schemes being implemented is regularly undertaken through field officers and the officers from the Headquarter Office. These efforts are being initiated to ensure proper implementation of the schemes and to strengthen the implementation further.

As regards full utilization of the allocated outlays, it is submitted that as a result of measures taken concerning monitoring and publicity of the schemes, it is hoped that outlays in the handicraft sector will be fully utilized under each of the schemes.

With regard to the recommendation regarding coverage of the schemes having impact on wider segment of artisans, it is submitted that additional measures like taking up theme based clusters (five theme based craft categories already finalized) and Mega Clusters such as at Moradabad and Narsapur would result in delivery of services through these schemes to a significantly larger artisanal base in the entire country.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 3 Para 18)**

The Committee note that there have been numerous schemes for the welfare of artisans. Even though the Government has harped on increasing budget allocations year after year, the Committee are not satisfied as most of these schemes have not been able to come up to the expectations of artisans as the benefits of these schemes have not reached to the majority of them. The Committee are unable to understand the reasons for fixing the targets on lower side under the Schemes. During the entire Tenth Five Year Plan, only 1.48 lakh artisans under the Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, 1.17 lakh artisans under Marketing and Support Promotion Scheme/Export Promotion Scheme, 2.93 lakh under Bima Yojana, 0.50 lakh under Design Scheme and 1.54 lakh artisans under the ID card Scheme could be covered. The reason given by the Ministry that the coverage under these schemes is directly proportional to the budgetary outlays approved by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission and hence the small percentage of total artisans covered is attributable to the outlays approved under these Schemes, contradicts with their version as there have been under utilization of funds during each plan year of the last Five Year Plan. The Committee are of the strong view that adequate spadework should be done ensuring that benefits of the developmental and welfare schemes reach the maximum number of beneficiaries. Considering the enhanced allocations during 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, the Committee recommend that all out efforts should be made to cover the entire strength of artisans within the current Five Year Plan, particularly under the welfare schemes. For the purpose, the targets under each of the schemes should be revised accordingly and if need be the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission should be urged to enhance the budgetary allocations to meet the increased targets.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. It will be the sincere efforts of the Government to cover large number of handicraft artisans through the six plan schemes approved for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

The Committee's recommendations with specific reference to coverage of larger number of artisans under the Welfare Scheme has also been noted and it is submitted that in the first 2 years of the plan period, physical coverage under the Welfare Scheme has been achieved more than what had been envisaged in the projections under the Welfare Scheme submitted for approval before the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan as indicated below:

Year	Physical target projected in CCEA Note(lakhs)		Actual physical target prescribed/ achieved (lakhs)	
	Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY)	Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana (RGSSBY)	JBY	RGSSBY
2007- 08	1.00	8.00	0.98	8.82
2008- 09	1.00	8.00	9.82	10.10

The increased physical coverage had been due to the reason that the actual annual premium under the Health Scheme determined after a competitive bidding process at the beginning of the Plan period had come out to be significantly lower than what was assumed while making physical and financial projections under scheme submitted for approval at the beginning of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

### **Comments of the Committee**

**(Please see Para No. 10 in Chapter-I of the Report)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 4 Para 28)**

The Committee note that the handicraft sector is a highly decentralized and dispersed sector. As per the census conducted in the year 1995-96, a total number of 45.83 lakh artisans are working as household units out of the total strength of 47.61 lakh artisans. The strength of artisans in the country at present is estimated to be 67 lakh. The Government did not sought a separate data of artisans working by forming Cooperative Societies/Clusters in the last census and hence their data is not available. This reflects the non seriousness of the Government regarding

organizing the handicraft artisans. Although, efforts are being made by the Government to organize the artisans, yet these efforts are limited and half hearted considering the total strength of artisans in the country. During the last three years 267 clusters have been formed as a result of Government efforts covering only, 1,06,974 artisans which is a small portion of the Government data of 65 lakh artisans in the country. The Committee feel that the Government assistance can be better channelised and utilized through Cooperative fold vis-à-vis targeting the individual artisan. For the purpose, handicrafts sector needs to be organized by bringing maximum number of artisans under the Cooperative fold. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that a well planned strategy be chalked out to form Cooperative Societies/Clusters all over the country in a time bound manner so as to bring the benefits of various welfare schemes to the artisans in a cohesive and assured way. It will be more appropriate if the work on the formation of Cooperatives is taken up simultaneously with the census operations by launching proper awareness programmes among the artisans regarding benefits of joining the Cooperatives.

### **Reply of the Government**

This recommendation of the Committee has already been accepted and adopted. Accordingly, the enumeration questionnaire has been suitably modified whereby data/information on Cooperative Societies and Clusters of the artisans shall also be captured. Upon the census findings becoming available, requisite strategies would be formed and implemented in such a manner that the recommendations of the Committee concerning formation of Cooperative Societies and clusters for the handicraft artisans all over the country could be implemented.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 5 Para 35)**

The Committee note that the role of NGOs in the implementation of developmental schemes for handicraft sector is very vital. According to the Government, their involvement is essential due to the fact that they have their presence through out the whole country at the grassroot level and are well familiarized about the issues relating to the artisans in the entire country and particularly in far flung areas. For implementing the welfare and developmental schemes aimed at

welfare of artisans, these NGOs are provided financial assistance and are required to submit utilization certificates after spending it for the purposes it was released to them. The Committee are dismayed to note the lack of proper monitoring mechanism on the functioning of these NGOs to ensure that the amount released to NGOs is spent purposefully. Besides, situation regarding receipt of utilization certificate from NGOs is far from satisfactory. The NGOs are one of the eligible agencies entrusted with the responsibilities of implementing the various Schemes in the handicraft sector. Therefore, not only the verification of the amount spent by them is essential but the achievement of physical target set out for each of the NGO by the Government will ensure their accountability in fulfilling their obligation towards handicraft sector. Non submission of utilization certificate by NGOs is indicative of the fact that the fund released to them have either being not utilized properly or could have mis-utilised. Despite the pendency of about 835 utilisation certificates for submission by different NGOs since long time, no NGO has been taken to task or blacklisted for its act of omission. This is a very serious lapse on the part of the Government as it involves the public money about which no accountability is being ensured. The non-receipt of utilization certificates on time restricts the timely release of further funds and hampers the growth of the sector. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that a thorough scrutiny of the proposals of NGOs should be done before involving them as implementing agencies. Their past performance, infrastructure, technical expertise and financial position should also be taken into consideration before entrusting any offer to them. The Committee further recommend that the submission of the utilization certificate alongwith the evaluation of the target achieved should be responsibilities of field formations of Office of DC (Handicrafts). They should also be held responsible alongwith the defaulting NGOs against whom punitive action be initiated including blacklisting them.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee contained in this para are being followed in the Office of DC (Handicrafts). To illustrate, it is submitted that the proposals of NGO as well as the competence of the NGO are scrutinized and ascertained at the application stage and at the field level itself. There is an elaborate grading system through which the capacity and capability of the NGO is ascertained by awarding a score against different identified performance parameters. A cut-off grade has also been prescribed to ensure that only capable NGOs are shortlisted as implementing partners for different schemes. While assessing their capability, their past performance, infrastructure, technical expertise and financial position are also taken into account.

There are suitable standing instructions to the field formations making them responsible for physical inspection of the activity under implementation and to ensure not only proper utilization of the funds released but also for arranging scrutiny of their

utilization certificates and other related documents. To ensure compliance with the guidelines and standing instructions by the implementing agencies/NGOs, no reimbursement proposal is considered unless it is accompanied with field inspection reports by the Assistant Director. Besides, additional checks have also been introduced to ensure proper utilization of grants by the NGOs. As an example, each applicant NGO under the Marketing Support Scheme & Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme is expected to disclose the list of artisans in advance at the stage initial proposal itself. The presence of the pre-disclosed artisans during the implementation stage is physically verified during the field inspection. A minimum presence of 80% pre-disclosed artisans during the implementation of the activity has been prescribed to become entitled for reimbursement of balance grants. Reimbursements are made, curtailed or recoveries made according to the actual number of artisans who participated in the activity. This arrangement ensures that the NGO really caters to the pre-identified artisans who shall receive prescribed benefits under the Schemes.

The NGOs in whose case the actual presence is 50% or below, are black listed, apart from action for recovery of the first installment released.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para 44)**

The Committee observe that our country produces varieties of handicrafts items marked by area specific characteristics. The artisans of different regions give special dimensions prominently featuring their local artistic creations in the making of different crafts. However, in the absence of an appropriate identification mark it becomes difficult for a buyer to distinguish it from rest of the handicrafts made by machines or imported depriving the artisans of the rightful and legitimate dues worth their products. The Indian traditional crafts do have the recognition all over the world since long. Our handicraft products are being exported to all the major countries in the world. Yet, our share of exports of handicrafts in the world's is only 1.6% which is very low. Considering the total artisanal population and vast range of products manufactured in the country, there is a tremendous scope for increasing our handicrafts exports ensuring that the benefits also percolates down to the artisans. On one hand, the artisans are unaware about the worth of their product due to their lack of proper exposure to the markets while on the other hand they are being exploited by the agents and middlemen for want of identification mark having the price value of the product in it. Even though the Government maintains that handicraft represents a very wide range of products made out of a diverse range of raw materials and combination thereof and employing a variety of processes, tools and technologies, it has not taken initiative to develop a generic trademark for the handicrafts. The quality

of the raw material of different handicraft items can be quantified, the products can be labeled after these meet the laid down criteria for the eligibility of the Handicraft mark. The Committee are of the opinion that there is need for proper identification of the handicrafts products to give a thrust to the exports and for ensuring that the artisans get a good value of their produces. They, therefore, strongly recommend that expeditious steps should be taken by the Government to develop a trademark namely 'Handicraft Mark' for handicraft items and, if possible, also displaying its price in it. Such a trademark would definitely enable handicraft products to develop a niche with a distinct identity both in domestic and international markets.

### **Reply of the Government**

Suitable proposals for undertaking the work for developing modalities for handicrafts trade mark, in case of feasibility, have been invited from competent organizations. The services of NID Ahmedabad have requisitioned to undertake the exercise for Handicrafts Mark.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 10 Para 63)**

The Committee observe that under Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana, efforts have been made to enable the artisans community to have access to the health care facilities. However, not only the identification of ailments and the amount earmarked for their treatment speak volumes about the shortsightedness of the Government on such an important issue, but the limit of four persons of a family for benefits under the Scheme has raised questions about the thinking of the Government in so far as concept of the family in our society is concerned. Under the Scheme, four persons of a family comprising self and any other three members of the family from amongst the dependent parents, spouse and children are covered. The choice between the parents and children, at times may be very difficult to make. The Committee are unable to understand the logic behind this concept as it may obliquely alter the edifice of the family bondage. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the ceiling of four persons of a family for benefits under the Scheme be done away with henceforth. The concept of a family should invariably include dependent parents and thus taking into account the two children, self and spouse, the ceiling should atleast be extended to six persons for the purpose of insurance coverage under the Scheme.



### **Reply of the Government**

It is submitted that after the first 2 years of implementation of RGSSBY with a provision of covering an artisan with 3 family members i.e. total 4, the average family size has been reported to be as under:-

2006-07	-	2.92 members
2007-08	-	3.12 members

Thus, it is evident that even the existing provision of 4 family members has not been optimally availed by the beneficiary artisans.

Therefore, keeping in view the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee, it is proposed to introduce an additional add-on feature in the existing scheme wherein the family size for the purpose of availing benefits under the scheme, in those cases where parents will be included as family members, shall be additional to the approved family size of 1+3. That is, if both the parents are included, then the family size for the beneficiary artisan shall be 6 (1+5) as has been recommended by the Committee.

A suitable proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para 70)**

The Committee observe that Shiksha Sehyog Yojana is one of the components of the Bima Yojana for the handicraft artisans. Under the Scheme educational assistance in the form of scholarship at the rate of Rs.300/- per quarter per child, for maximum to two children, studying in class 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Standard is given to the children of insured artisans. The Committee appreciated the objective of the Scheme, but express their apprehension regarding its practicality. Although it aims at promoting education among the children of artisans, yet pegging it for students of class 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> makes it unrealistic and impractical. It is common knowledge that the percentage of children of artisans reaching upto class 9<sup>th</sup> and beyond is very low and hence the purpose of launching schemes largely remain unfulfilled. To make the Scheme meaningful with the intent to upgrade the education of artisans offsprings, it should be made

applicable from the beginning of the schooling of the student i.e. from the 1st standard to the 12<sup>th</sup> standard. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the scholarships should be provided at the initial stage of schooling, i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> Class onwards so that the artisans are motivated to start the schooling of their children and are encouraged to continue till their wards become conscious enough to pursue their career profession.

### **Reply of the Government**

Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a proposal was made to LIC of India on 22.08.2008, requesting consideration of, among others, the following issues:

- For enhancing the age limit from 60 years to 70 years
- To increase Children Education Allowance from Rs.300 per quarter per child to 2 children to Rs.500.

Before the response of LIC of India is described, it is imperative to mention here that Janashree Bima Yojana is not a scheme specifically for the handicraft artisans.

On the issue of increasing the age limit to 70 years LIC has asked for likely number of persons to be covered under the scheme. The same is being furnished to them.

As regards providing scholarships under Shiksha Sahayog Yojana from the initial stage of schooling i.e. from Class 1<sup>st</sup> onwards as against Class 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> as at present, LIC has responded that the change in the classes to which scholarship is provided under Shiksha Sahayog Yojana or the quantum of scholarship cannot be decided by LIC of India. This is a Central Government Scheme managed by LIC and any change in the scheme cannot be done in isolation to any scheme but would be applicable to all the Janashree Bima Yojana scheme. The LIC has further intimated that the JBY scheme would be reviewed again in next year and depending upon claim experience the benefits can be reviewed. In view of the above response from LIC, it would be the endeavor of the Office of DC (Handicrafts) to again pursue with LIC to accept the proposals emanating from the recommendations of the Committee, at the time of review in the next financial year.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

### **CHAPTER-III**

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE  
TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY**

**N I L**

## **CHAPTER-IV**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para 55)**

The Committee observe the emphasis of the Government on the Human Resource Development of artisans is extremely lop-sided keeping in view the number of artisans in the country *vis-à-vis* training activities underaken. During the year 2005-06 1,100 participants in 11 events, 300 participants in 3 events in the year 2006-07 and 2,460 participants in 18 events in the year 2007-08 were imparted training. Under Special Handicraft Training Project, training imparted to artisans declined every succeeding year as 2,660 participants were trained during the year 2005-06, 760 during the year 2006-07 and 600 during the year 2007-08. But the position under the schemes Training in Innovative Designs and Training of artisans/SHG leaders/NGO in capacity building is extremely poor as for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 not a single person was trained under both the schemes. Similarly, during the year 2007-08 not a single person was trained under the scheme Training through Guru Shishya Parampara. There has also been no fixed periodicity of these trainings as they were stated to be organized on a need based manner. In future also, workshops and seminars are proposed to be organized only in such a fashion. The manner in which need for such workshops/seminars is decided and what is the criteria for such a decision has not been explained. Training to artisans is given primarily to upgrade their skills and make them aware about the conditions prevailing in the sector and how to cope with the fast growing and ever changing market requirements. Hence, an *ad hoc* approach on this important aspect of artisans activity will not make our artisans competitive and sustainable. Besides, our artisans also face resource crunch in carrying out their vocation. Under no scheme of the Government financial assistance, subsidy or loan is provided to artisans to enhance their professional skills. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that training of artisans is of utmost importance for their sustainable growth and to achieve this, though in a phased manner, a proper and well thought out strategy be devised to continue it on a regular basis. The publicity of such programmes be adequately given amongst the artisans for achieving maximum coverage and to make them aware about the benefits of these trainings. The proposal for soft loan to artisans under Design and Technological Upgradation Scheme be also mooted with the provision of buy back arrangements of finished products against such loan.

#### **Reply of the Government**

This is already taken care of, under different components of the existing Human Resource Development Scheme implemented by this office.

The range of these trainings provided varies from skill development under the tutelage of Mastercraftperson and specialized institutional trainings. A wide publicity of all the schemes including that of the HRD Scheme is regularly ensured through press advertisement for creating awareness among the stake- holders.

As regards soft loan to artisans under Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme, it is submitted that as of now there is no such enabling provision in the existing approved schemes of this office. However, under the Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana there is a component of Credit Guarantee Scheme through which the Government of India bears the cost of Guarantee Fee and Annual Service Charges, which is paid to Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for micro, medium and small enterprises for obtaining guarantee cover in respect of the credit sanctioned to the handicraft artisans by different Member Lending Institutes (MLIs) i.e. Banks. This arrangement is applicable in respect of credit sanctioned to both artisans and SHGs.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

***Comments of the Committee***

**(Please see Para No.16 in Chapter-I of the Report)**

## **CHAPTER-V**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para 13)**

The Committee find that the last census to ascertain actual number of handicrafts artisans was conducted in the year 1995-96 and thereafter no fresh survey has been carried out even after a gap of more than a decade. Now, in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the Office of the DC (Handicrafts) has decided to conduct a fresh survey in which 20% districts will be covered every year. Based on the outcome of the census of 20% districts each year, estimated/projected population of artisans will be determined. In this way, it is proposed to get the actual data of artisans by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. This process of census is cumbersome and skewed as it will not bring out the exact figures of artisans in the country because by the time census of last phase takes place, the figure in areas wherein the census was carried out in the first phase might have changed drastically. The present decision of the Government has perhaps not considered the very fact that the number of artisans in the country may not be more than a crore and the pockets of their concentration are also easily identifiable. Hence, to prolong the census of artisans during the entire 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period defies all logic. The implementation of developmental and welfare schemes based on assumption of figures of artisans will not be of any consequence as the quantum of money and machinery cannot be determined in the absence of correct data resulting in non fulfillment of the target fixed under the schemes. The Committee, therefore recommend that it will be in the fitness of things if a one time survey is carried out to cover the entire strength of artisans all over the country and the current process of covering 20% of the districts every year should be continued thereafter to keep the data updated. Since the artisans are scattered across the country including in far flung and hilly areas. The existing set up in the Ministry of Textiles may not have adequate infrastructure and expertise, the services of other specialized agencies, like National Sample Survey Organization (NSS) may be requisitioned for conducting a realistic scientific census operations. This will not only help in expediting the work of census, but a region wise data base will also be prepared for implementation of the schemes effectively in future.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee to have one time survey i.e. 100% census conducted, has been referred to the competent authority, for approval. Since the methodology of conducting 100% census is a shift from the

existing policy of conducting census of 20% districts every year, the change in policy has to be decided by the competent authority and requires subsequent approvals including from Planning Commission. This process will take more time. It has, therefore, been decided to carry on with the census on the basis of present policy covering further 20% districts in the country this year i.e. 2008-09 and the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee to conduct 100% census, shall be implemented w.e.f. the next financial year i.e. 2009-10 after the acceptance and approvals of the competent authority as aforesaid.

A proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Internal Finance Wing and will be taken up there-after with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance etc.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

### **Comments of the Committee**

**(Please see Para No. 7 of Chapter-I of the Report)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para 39)**

The Committee observe that the Government has introduced a new provision in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan paving the way for providing travel assistance to the artisans who participate in the marketing events organized by the Office of the DC (Handicrafts) from time to time and are coming from the distance of more than 500 kms. Although this is a welcome step as it will encourage the artisans of distant areas to take part in the marketing events, yet the proposal is bereft of ground realities and will perhaps act as dampener to the local artisans where the Expo is being organized. The distance limit of more than 500 kms is impracticable. Keeping in view the poor financial position of the artisans and escalating transport expenses due to continuous hike in fuel prices, the distance of even 100 kms. is beyond the reach of artisans to travel at their own cost. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the limit of distance considered for providing travel assistance to the artisans should be reduced to at least 100 kms so that it does not prove an obstacle for the needy artisans to exhibit their skills. Similarly, some arrangements like plying special buses can be arranged for the artisans residing/working within the radius of 100 kms. of exhibition venue. These steps will help in maximizing the participation of artisans benefiting them.

## **Reply of the Government**

During the 11<sup>th</sup> Five year Plan the facility of payment of TA/DA to artisans which earlier was paid to artisans from some identified and difficult localities has been extended to all the artisans who come to participate in a market related activity from a distance of and more than 500 kms. from and to their place of residences.

The acceptance of the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour to relax the rules for payment of TA/DA to artisans participating in Market related programmes of this office reducing the distance from approved 500 Kms to 100 Kms. requires the approval of the competent authority.

A proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)

### **Comments of the Committee**

**(Please see Para No.13 in Chapter-I of the Report)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para 62)**

The Committee observe that the Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana was launched by the Government in March, 2007 with the objective to financially enable the artisans community to have access to the health care facilities at an annual premium of Rs.150 for artisan of the general category and Rs.75/- for artisans belonging to SC/ST/BPL/NER. The Scheme is being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The annual coverage per family is four persons comprising self and any other three members of the family from amongst the dependent parents, spouse and children. The annual coverage per family is Rs.15,000 under the Scheme. The Committee are of the opinion that the cap of Rs.15,000 per family under the Scheme is, however, too meagre taking in account the present day medical expenses. There have been classification of various ailments and the monetary ceiling for their treatment. However, the classification of ailment and provision of money is far from satisfactory. Provision for Rs.75/- for eye treatment, Rs.250/- for dental treatment and Rs.500/-for baby coverage are few illustrations highlighting the



casual approach in deciding these issues. Although, the Committee understand the limited scope of maneuverability due to financial constraints, yet earmarking of the paltry sum is an exercise in futility keeping in view the procedure involved in getting reimbursement and the cost of treatment. The Committee feel that the artisans belong to the disadvantaged strata of the society and most of them are very poor. Due to their improper, unhygienic working conditions and poor life style, they are more prone to occupational diseases including critical illness not to say of normal diseases. The Health Scheme, currently in operation, ignores a very vital aspect of the health care as it does not include treatment for critical illnesses. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that keeping in view the ever increasing medical expenses, the ceiling under the scheme should be raised to atleast Rs.1,50,000 per annum per family. The Committee further recommend that the critical illnesses like cancer, heart problems, brain surgery etc. should also be brought within the ambit of the Scheme with appropriate financial ceiling.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations concerning raising the ceiling of coverage as well as inclusion of critical illness has been examined. It is felt that these enhancements in the coverage of benefits may yield in substantial hike in the annual premium, which at present is Rs.800/- per annum per artisan. Out of this, the general category artisan contributes Rs.150/- and an artisan belonging to NER, SC, ST & BPL categories contribute Rs.75/-. The Government of India contributes the balance annual premium and Service Tax on the total premium. If the sharing of the future premium between the artisan and GoI is kept in the existing proportion, there would be an apparent hike in the artisan's share of the annual premium as well, which all artisans may not be able to afford.

Therefore, in view of recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee, action has been initiated for a new add-on feature to be introduced in the scheme for covering 10 critical illnesses such as Cancer, Paralysis, Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack), Bye pass Surgery, Kidney failure, Stroke, Tuberculosis etc., with a financial cap of Rs.1.5 lakh per annum per artisan family. Artisan who is willing to pay the higher premium could opt for this feature.

A suitable proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

## **Comments of the Committee**

**(Please see Para No.19 in Chapter-I of the Report)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para 69)**

The Committee note that Bima Yojana for Handicraft artisans has been launched by the Government to provide Life Insurance protection to handicraft artisans in case of natural/accidental death or total/partial disability due to accident. This Scheme is being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India. The artisans between the age group of 18 to 60 years are eligible to be covered under the Scheme. The annual premium under the Scheme is Rs.200/- of which Rs.40/- is to be contributed by the artisan, Rs.60/- by the Government of India, and Rs.100/- by LIC. The Committee are of the opinion that the handicrafts is an art and even the artisans of higher age groups are also practicing their skills and are contributing to the development of the sector. More so, they also work as trainers for the young generations using their vast experience and traditional skills. Hence, to exclude them from the coverage of insurance not only negates their past contribution to the sector but also harbours the misplaced presumption that the artisans beyond the age of 60 are incapable of any work. This notion will undermine the efficacy, talent, resourcefulness and innovations of the sector because primarily all the activities here revolve around the person and his skill. Nonetheless, life expectancy in our country has also considerably gone up and hence restricting it to the age of 60 in such circumstances will not be beneficial to the artisans. The Committee, therefore strongly recommend that the age for insurance coverage under the Scheme should be enhanced at least upto 70 years as this will also enable the Government to fulfill its socio-economic obligations. The Committee also desire to be apprised of the concrete steps taken in this regard at the earliest.

### **Reply of the Government**

Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a proposal was made to LIC of India on 22.08.2008, requesting consideration of, among others, the following issues:

- For enhancing the age limit from 60 years to 70 years
- To increase Children Education Allowance from Rs.300 per quarter per child to 2 children to Rs.500.

Before the response of LIC of India is described, it is imperative to mention here that Janashree Bima Yojana is not a scheme specifically for the handicraft artisans.

On the issue of increasing the age limit to 70 years LIC has asked for likely number of persons to be covered under the scheme. The same is being furnished to them.

As regards providing scholarships under Shiksha Sahayog Yojana from the initial stage of schooling i.e. from Class 1<sup>st</sup> onwards as against Class 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> as at present, LIC has responded that the change in the classes to which scholarship is provided under Shiksha Sahayog Yojana or the quantum of scholarship cannot be decided by LIC of India. This is a Central Government Scheme managed by LIC and any change in the scheme cannot be done in isolation to any scheme but would be applicable to all the Janashree Bima Yojana scheme.

The LIC has further intimated that the JBY scheme would be reviewed again in next year and depending upon claim experience the benefits can be reviewed.

In view of the above response from LIC, it would be the endeavor of the Office of DC (Handicrafts) to again pursue with LIC to accept the proposals emanating from the recommendations of the Committee, at the time of review in the next financial year.

**(Ministry of Textiles O.M. NO.2/26/2008-Parl. dated 24.2.2009)**

### **Comments of the Committee**

**(Please see Para No.22 in Chapter-I of the Report)**

**New Delhi;  
11<sup>th</sup> November, 2009  
20 Kartika, 1931 (Saka)**

**HEMANAND BISWAL  
CHAIRMAN,  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR.**

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2009.**

The Committee met from 1400 hrs. to 1545 hrs in Committee Room No. `139', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi to have oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment on `The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2009' and `The Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2009' and to consider and adopt draft Action Taken Reports.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Hemanand Biswal – CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS  
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Shri P. Balram
4. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
5. Shri Sudarshan Bhagat
6. Shri Hassan Khan
7. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
8. Shri P. Lingam
9. Shri Hari Manjhi
10. Shri P.R. Natarajan
11. Shri Chandu Lal Sahu

**RAJYA SABHA**

12. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy
13. Shri Rajaram
14. Smt. Renubala Pradhan
15. Shri G.N. Ratanpuri

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                          |   |                     |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri Devender Singh   | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. Shri B.S. Dahiya      | - | Director            |
| 3. Shri Ashok Sajwan     | - | Additional Director |
| 4. Smt. Bharti S. Tuteja | - | Under Secretary     |

2.	xx	xx	xx
3.	xx	xx	xx
4.	xx	xx	xx
5.	xx	xx	xx
6.	xx	xx	xx
7.	xx	xx	xx

8. The Chairman then informed the Members regarding consideration and adoption of following draft Action Taken Reports:

- (i) Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirtieth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the 'Functioning of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation'.
- (ii) Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the 'Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector'.
- (iii) Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirty-Fifth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'General conditions of weavers in the country – A case study of Sircilla concentration zone of weavers'.

9. The Committee, then, took up the draft Reports for consideration. The Committee adopted the draft Reports without any amendments/modifications.

10. The Committee also authorized the Chairman to present the same to the Parliament.

**The Committee then adjourned.**

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**xx Not pertain to this Report.**

APPENDIX-II

**(Vide Para No. 3 of the Introduction)**

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON  
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-THIRD REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
I. Total number of Recommendations	12	
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government  (Sl. Nos. 1,3,4,5,7,10 and 12)	7	58.33%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of  Government's replies-	NIL	NIL
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been  accepted by the Committee and which requires  reiteration-(Sl. No. 8)	1	8.33%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are of interim in nature  (Sl. Nos.2,6,9, and 11)	4	33.33%
		-----
		100%
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