

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3191
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014
PEOPLE ENGAGED IN HANDLOOM SECTOR
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of people engaged in the handloom sector is coming down;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the recommendations made by the Steering Committee on Handlooms and Handicrafts for the Twelfth Plan and the status of implementation of those recommendations; and
- (d) the initiatives being taken by the Government to improve the living conditions of the craftsmen in the handloom sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, the number of people engaged in the handloom sector have come down as is evident from the figure reported in Handloom Census 2009-10, where the number of people engaged in handloom sector was 43.31 lakhs compared to 65.50 lakhs people engaged in handloom sector as per Handloom Census 1995-96. Main reasons for decline of number of people engaged in the handloom sector, inter alia, include competition with mechanized sector such as mill and powerloom sectors, easy availability of cheap imported fabric, decline of Handloom corporations/Apex Cooperative Societies, Lack of credit availability etc.

(c) & (d): The steering committee on handloom and handicrafts made recommendations on various issues including Raw Material Availability, Credit Availability, Cluster Development Interventions, Marketing, Export & Brand Promotion, Human Resource Development, Skill Upgradation, Research & Development, Social Security, Looms Improvement & Better Ergonomics, Technology upgradation etc. Of the recommendations made, considering the feasibility and availability of the budget, certain recommendations have been accepted and incorporated for implementation under various schemes during 12th Plan.

To improve the living conditions of the weavers/ craftsmen and for sustainable development of handloom/handicraft sector, following schemes are under implementation during 12th Plan:

Schemes under implementation for handloom sector:

1. National Handloom Development Programme
2. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
3. Yarn Supply Scheme
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

Schemes under implementation for handicraft sector:

1. Baba Saheb Hastshilp Vikas Yojana
2. Design & Technical Upgradation Scheme
3. Marketing Support and Services Scheme
4. Human and Resource Development Scheme
5. Research and Development Scheme
6. Handicrafts Artisans comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
7. Infrastructure and Technology Development Scheme.