

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:278

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014

ASSISTANCE TO WEAVERS

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of difficulties faced by the handloom weavers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether programmes/schemes are under implementation to improve the condition and living standard of handloom weavers and if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the handloom weavers are facing competition from the powerloom and mill sectors; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to support handloom weavers and to protect the interest of the handloom weavers?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.278 FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2014.

(a): The Government of India is aware about the constraints/ problems being faced by the handloom weavers throughout the country primarily due to high labour content, 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.

(b): In order to improve the living standard of handloom weavers and `sustainable development of handloom sector, Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, through various schemes and programmes, has adopted focussed, flexible and holistic approach by facilitating marketing of handloom products, infrastructure development, brand building and empowerment of weavers by organising them under self help groups, training and skill upgradation, infusion of new and contemporary designs through design intervention as well as product diversification, technology upgradation, easy access to raw material at subsidized prices and easy credit flow at low interest rate etc., besides providing better health care and life insurance under welfare schemes, the following schemes are being implemented:-

1. National Handloom Development Programme-

(a) Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (3 schemes of 11th plan merged into this scheme. These schemes were Integrated handloom Development Scheme, Marketing and export Promotion Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme)

(b) Revival, Reforms and Restructuring (RRR) package for handloom sector.

2. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme-

(a) Health Insurance Scheme for access to health care facilities

(b) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for life insurance

3. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

The funds allocated and released for the schemes during last three years are shown in Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): In order to face competition from powerloom & mill sector, the Government of India (GOI) has been supplying all types of yarn to weavers under Yarn Supply Scheme wherein the freight and depot charges are reimbursed to beneficiaries. Besides, GOI is also giving 10% subsidy on cotton hank yarn, Indian silk yarn and wool under which weaver is entitled to get cotton yarn 30kgs. Upto 40 counts and above counts 10 kgs. per loom per month. For, silk, 4 kgs. per loom per month and for wool, below 10s NM, 50 kgs.,

10s to 39.99 NM, 10 kgs. and for 40s NM and above, 4 kgs. Per loom per month.

The Government of India has enacted the Handlooms

(Reservation of Article for Production) Act dated 29.3.1985 with a view to protect of millions of Handloom Weavers and rich cultural heritage of the country from the encroachment on their live- lihood by Powerlooms/Mill Sector.

Under the Act, presently 11 textiles articles are reserved for production on handlooms vide Reser- vation Order Notification S.O. 2160(E) dated 3.9.2008. Powerlooms/Mill Sector are prevented from production of these reserved items. The 11 textile articles are reserved for handlooms are: 1) Saree, 2)Dhoti, 3) Towel, Gamcha and Angawas- taram, 4) Lungi, 5) Khes, Bedsheet, Bedcover, Counterpane, Furnishing (including tapestry, upholstery), 6) Jamakkalam Durry or Durret, 7) Dress Material, 8) Barrack Blankets, Kambal or Kamblies, 9) Shawl, Loi, Muffler, Pankhi etc., 10) Woollen Tweed, 11) Chaddar, Mekhala/Phanek.