

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2582
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015
PLIGHT OF WEAVERS
Butta Smt. Renuka

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of the plight of weavers due to exploitation by the middlemen;
- (b) if so, the main reasons for the same;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to curb the activities of the middlemen and save the weavers; and
- (d) the extent to which these steps have been successful?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No Madam. Government has not received reports from any quarter that handloom weaver is being exploited by middleman. To overcome the problems being faced by the handloom weavers and to improve the living standard of handloom weavers and sustainable development of handloom sector, O/o D.C. Handloom, through various schemes and programmes, has adopted focused, flexible and holistic approach by facilitating marketing of handloom products, infrastructure development, brand building and empowerment of weavers by organizing 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. These scheme inter-alia are:-

1. National Handloom Development Programme- two components:-

a. Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme (3 schemes of 11th Plan merged into this scheme. These schemes were Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS), Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS) and Diversified Handlooms Development Scheme).

b. Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package for handloom sector.

2. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme- two components:

a. Health Insurance Scheme for access to health care facilities (The scheme has been implemented by Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms upto 30.9.2014 and now, the scheme is implemented on Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) platform by Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) with enhanced benefits of Rs.37500/- (Rs.7500/- and Rs.30000/- for OP & IP treatment respectively) for a family of five members.

b. Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for life insurance

3. Yarn Supply Scheme

4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

(d): With the implementation of the above schemes, there has been improvement in the following parameters :

- # Productivity has increased
- # Average monthly income has gone up
- # Working days in a year have gone up
- # Increase in sales
- # Increase in revenue
- # Improvement in Skills
- # There has been overall improvement in satisfaction of weavers
- # Weavers become financially independent and socially more reasonable
- # Weavers have credit linkage to Banks through PWCS and SHGs

