

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2633
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015
INTRODUCTION OF PENSION SCHEME
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to introduce pension scheme for the traditional and handloom weavers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the welfare schemes presently under implementation for the traditional and handloom weavers of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): At present there is no plan to introduce pension scheme for the traditional and handloom weavers in the country by Government of India. However, as per the information received from the States -

(i) Andhra Pradesh state has informed that the state government has been implementing Old Age Pension Scheme in the state and the persons of above 60 years of age are eligible under this scheme. However, for the handloom weavers eligibility criterion of age is relaxed from 60 to 50 years vide G.O.Ms No.278 dated 14.10.2005 of Industries & Commerce (Tex) Department. Financial assistance (pensions) @ Rs.1000/- per month is provided under Old Age Pension Scheme.

(ii) Tamil Nadu state has informed that they have been implementing the Tamilnadu Cooperative Handloom Weavers Family Pension Scheme for handloom weavers under cooperative fold from the year 1991-92. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs.1000/- per month is granted to the nominee of deceased weaver members of handloom weavers cooperative societies for 10 years from the date of death of deceased weaver or upto the age of attaining 60 years by the deceased weaver (if he is alive), whichever is beneficial to the weaver's family. The State Government is also implementing the Tamilnadu Co-operative Handloom Weavers Old Age Pension Scheme for the handloom weavers under co-operative fold from the year 1997-98. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs.1000/- per month is granted to the weavers from the age of 60 years upto their lifetime.

(iii) West Bengal state has intimated that the state government has been implementing "Old Age Pension" scheme for handloom weavers. Under the scheme, a weaver shall be entitled to receive pension if he satisfies the following conditions - (a) he has attained 60 years of age and is a resident of west Bengal; (b) he is a weaver member of a handloom cooperative society; (c) he has worked for atleast 10 years under the cooperative society, he has no source of income and he is not in a position to earn his livelihood; (d) he has been permanently incapacitated for work due to physical or mental infirmity; (e) he has no relation who can maintain him; he has been a resident of west Bengal for not less than ten years on the date of making the application; and he is not receiving any pension from state government or Government of India. The amount of pension has been enhanced from Rs.750/- to Rs.1000/- w.e.f. 01.04.2015.

(iv) Karnataka state has intimated that they do not have plan to introduce pension scheme for traditional and handloom weavers however, the state is providing financial assistance of Rs.500/- per month under "Sandhya Suraksha" scheme for the persons above the age of 65 years with yearly family income below Rs.20,000/-.

(d): The Government of India has been implementing following schemes for development of handlooms and welfare of weavers of the country -

(A) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) -

i) Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package for handloom sector-

Under RRR package, a total of 39 Apex Handloom Weaver Cooperative Society, 9683 Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies (PWCs), 6310 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 52975 individual weavers have been covered with financial implication from all over India of Rs.1089.90 crore. The package was started implementing from 28.11.2011 and completed on 28.02.2014.

ii) Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme -

Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme has been formulated by merging all the major components of the schemes namely Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS), Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS) and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS) implemented during the 11th plan and 2012-13 which is one of the components of National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) for its implementation during the 12th plan. The scheme will follow need based approach for integrated and holistic development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers.

(B) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)

i) Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)

The scheme aims at enabling the weaver community to access healthcare facilities. The scheme provided coverage of Rs.15000/- per annum (out of which Rs.7500/- is for OPD) for a family of four members. 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.

ii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY)

The scheme aims to provide life insurance cover to handloom weavers in the case of natural death (Rs.60,000/-), accidental death (Rs.1,50,000/-) total disability (Rs.1,50,000/-) and partial disability (Rs.75,000/-).

(C) Yarn Supply Scheme

The scheme is implemented across the country through National Handloom Development Corporation, Lucknow to make available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom weavers so as to facilitate regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector and help utilize the full employment potential of the sector. Further, to provide the subsidized yarn only to handloom weavers in order to compete with powerloom and mill sector, a component of 10% price subsidy on hank yarn also exist under which 10% subsidy, which is applicable on cotton, domestic silk and woollen yarn with quantity limitation.

NHDC has opened 788 yarn depots-cum-warehouses in 12th Plan so as to ensure timely supplies to the user agencies on cash basis, besides taking care of individual weavers who need yarn in small quantity.