

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3894  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015  
HANDLOOM WEAVERS  
Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

**Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the average per capita income of handloom weavers in the country during the last three years and current year alongwith the increase/decrease in their income;
- (b) the number of such weavers living below the poverty line in the country;
- (c) whether the handloom design products are patented;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to boost investment in the handloom sector?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Information about the average per capita income of handloom weavers in the country during the last three years and current year alongwith the increase/ decrease in their income is not available. However, as per third all India Handloom Census (2009-10), the number of handloom weavers & allied workers is 43.31 lakh in the country. The number of 43.31 lakh handloom weavers & allied workers of third handloom census constitutes 27.83 lakh households from India of which, 2,70,915 handloom workers households have AAY ration cards and 10,26,696 handloom workers households have BPL ration cards which indicates that they are living below the poverty line in the country. As per handloom census 2009-10, the average annual income of handloom worker households is Rs.36,498/-.

(c) & (d): The Government of India provides financial assistance of Rs.3 lakh per product i.e. Rs.1.50 lakh to meet expenditure in registering designs/products and Rs.1.50 lakh to impart training to personnel of implementing agency and for effective enforcement of Geographical Indications (GI) to State Government/State agencies to register handloom products under the GI of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 so as to provide legal protection to Geographical indications of goods etc. and prevents unauthorized use of these by others. So far, financial assistance to register 35 handloom products under the GI Acts. Of this, 18 products have already been registered under the Act. Further, Handloom Sector is unorganized sector. The weavers concerned are either works under some weaver entrepreneur, Cooperative society, State Handloom Development Corp./KVIC etc. Some of the individual weavers weave area specific product(s) like North East States, for own consumption as well as commercial purpose. Therefore, their product design are not usually patented. In order to bring such products in a stream line, Ministry of Textiles has launched Handloom Mark as well, to develop and sell the handloom products under a single banner.

(e): Government of India is implementing following schemes/programmes to boost investment in handloom sector and to support and promote the handloom sector:-

- (i) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- (ii) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme(CHCDS)
- (iii) Yarn Supply Scheme
- (iv) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme