

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3859
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
INCENTIVES NEW SCHEMES FOR PROMOTION OF HANDICRAFTS
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of artisans in the country as per the census held recently, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of incentives/new schemes formulated for promotion of handicrafts /artisans in the country along with the funds allocated/utilized during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to provide basic amenities including housing and healthcare to artisans engaged in the handicrafts sector in a bid to improve their standard of living; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The current census of handicrafts artisans is still in progress. However, based on the existing census undertaken so far, the number of handicrafts artisans has been estimated at 68.86 lakhs. State-wise /UT-wise data is not finalised yet.

(b): The Government implements following schemes for promotion of handicraft/artisans:-

- (i) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshil Vikas Yojana (AHVY)
- (ii) Design and technology upgradation scheme
- (iii) Marketing support and services scheme
- (iv) Research and development scheme
- (v) Human and resource development scheme
- (vi) Handicrafts artisans comprehensive welfare scheme for Handicrafts Artisans and
- (vii) Infrastructure and technology development scheme.

The state-wise details of funds adocated during last 3 years and current year upto 28.02.2015 is annexed on Annexure-I

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Government implements Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasth Bima Yojana (RGSSBY) for easy access to health facilities by the artisans. The scheme is to be run on the platform of Rashtriya Swasth Bima Yojana (RSBY) of Ministry of Labour during 2015-16.