

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2135  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014  
HANDLOOM INDUSTRIES  
Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the handloom industry is one of the industries which uses labour intensive techniques in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; (
- (c) the number of people currently employed in this industry throughout the country;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated incentive schemes for development and expansion of this sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and quantum of annual financial assistance proposed to be given to handloom industry under the said scheme?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): YesSir,handloom industry is one of the industries which is labour intensive. The total number of people employed in this sector/industry is 43.32 lakhs as per the census of 2009-10. Handloom weaving constitutes one of the richest and most vibrant aspects of Indian cultural heritage, hence Ministry of Textiles GOI is making serious efforts to sustain and promote handloom sector in different parts of the country.

(d) & (e): To improve the living standard of handloom weavers and sustainable development of handloom sector, the Ministry of Textiles, 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. With this objective, following schemes have been approved for implementation during 12th Plan:-

1. National Handloom Development Programme- two components:

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

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

2. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme- two components:

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

(ii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for life insurance

3. Yarn Supply Scheme

4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

The details of schemes are given in Annexure.

The total financial assistance earmarked for 2014-15 under the above schemes is Rs. 537 crore.