

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2275  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014  
MANPOWER IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRIES  
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) whether there is constant decline in the number of handloom weavers in the handloom industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of decline during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government is considering formulation of a long term policy to address the said problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): There has been decline in number of handloom weavers in the country. As per handloom census of 1995-96, the total number of handloom weavers and allied workers was 65.51 lakh in the country, which as per handloom census of 2009-10, reduced to 43.32 lakh.

(c) & (d): 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.