

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1268

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2016

Hardships Faced by Handloom Weavers and Artisans

Bhabhor Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi;Mahajan Smt. Poonam ;Nishad Shri Ajay;Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa;Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai;Verma Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of hardships being faced by the handloom and powerloom weavers and artisans including the number of handloom and powerloom weavers and artisans in the country including Uttar Pradesh at present, State-wise;
- (b) the details of schemes being implemented for their development and welfare in the country including the financial assistance provided during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the weavers and artisans have become unemployed due to increase in power tariff in the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to impart them training under the Kaushal Vikas Yojana and to safeguard their interests;
- (d) whether the funds prescribed for development and welfare of weavers and artisans are not being fully utilized, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the development and promotion of handloom, powerloom and handicraft sectors along with the funds provided for the said purpose during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): There are 43.31 lakh handloom weavers, 62.72 lakh workers in the Powerloom sector and 68.86 lakh artisans in the Handicrafts sector in the country including Uttar Pradesh. The issues affecting Handloom weavers, Powerloom workers and artisans in handicraft sectors include pre-weaving facilities, yarn price volatility, shortage of skilled manpower, absence of market intelligence, low productivity, competition from organized sector, high cost of finance and insufficient credit flow from institutional sources.

(b) to (e): Various development schemes have been launched by the Government to address the problems faced by weavers/artisans and also to ensure the development & welfare of powerloom, handloom and handicraft sectors. These include Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Schemes for Powerloom Sector Development, Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS), National Handicraft Development Programme [NHDP], National Handloom Development Programme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Yarn supply Scheme, Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, etc. The details of funds provided for the development and welfare of handloom, powerloom and handicraft sectors during each of the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure-I. These schemes are implemented on pan India basis. State wise allocation of funds are not made.

While increase in power tariff affects the profitability of powerloom sector, no specific report have been received of any weaver/worker becoming unemployed due to increase in power tariff in the country.

The funds for the development and welfare of weavers and artisans are being utilized and utilization certificates from concerned are being received from time to time. Further the fields units / offices of the various attached and subordinate offices under Ministry of Textiles located throughout the country monitor the activity for effective implementation of Schemes / Programmes including utilization of funds.