GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3475
ANSWERED ON- 25/03/2021

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILING OF HANDICRAFT ARTISANS

3475. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has data regarding socio-economic profile and geographical distribution of handicraft artisans, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has assessed the number of small and medium enterprises which have been closed during lockdown, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed for the enterprises running in losses or closed, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): Yes Sir, the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has data related to socio-economic profile and State-wise geographical distribution of Handicrafts artisans registered under Pahchan initiative. A total of 26.52 lakh artisans have been registered so far under Pahchan initiative. The state-wise detail of handicraft artisans is annexed at **Annexure-I.**

(b) & (c): Studies have been conducted by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to assess the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on MSMEs including units set up under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

A. The main findings of the online study conducted by NSIC to understand the operational capabilities and difficulties faced by the beneficiaries of NSIC schemes amid Covid-19 pandemic are as follows:

i. 91% MSMEs were found to be functional.
ii. Five most critical problems faced by MSMEs were identified as Liquidity (55% units), Fresh Orders (17% units), Labour (9% units), Logistics (12% units) and availability of Raw Material (8% units.)

B. The findings of the study conducted by KVIC are as under:

i. 88% of the beneficiaries of PMEGP scheme reported that they were negatively affected due to Covid-19 while the remaining 12% stated that they were benefitted during Covid-19 Pandemic.

ii. Among the 88% who were affected, 57% stated that their units were shut down for some time during this period, while 30% reported drop in production and revenue.

iii. Among the 12% who had benefitted, 65% stated that their business increased as they had units in retail and health sector and around 25% stated that their units benefitted as they were dealing with essential commodities or services.

iv. On the question of regular payment of salaries to the employees, around 46.60% respondents stated that they had paid the salaries in full, 42.54% reported to have partially paid and 10.86% reported to have not paid salary for some time during this period.

v. Majority of the beneficiaries expressed the need for additional financial support, relaxation of waiver of interest and marketing support for their products.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to improve the scheme:

i. The process of application flow, including bank sanctions and disbursement, has been made faster and transparent through introduction of on-line portal.

ii. The process of selection of entrepreneurs has been further streamlined with the discontinuation of the role of District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) since April, 2020, in recommending proposals/applications to financing banks. In the revised scenario, the proposals are now sent directly by Implementing Agencies to financing banks based on a Score Card model approved by Indian Bankers' Association, thereby reducing the overall approval period.

iii. Organizing of Entrepreneurship Training Programme (EDP), mandatory before disbursal of loan by Banks, has been made online since October 2019 to provide expedited training and release of loan to the beneficiaries.

iv. Free two days online pre-EDP training has been introduced for interested applicants.

v. The list of activities has been expanded to attract entrepreneurs for setting up diverse units.

vi. Implementing Agencies like KVIC, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centers (DICs) are providing handholding to applicants, through call centers, online tutorials as well as with help desks having banking and marketing experts.

vii. Sector/industry wise webinars are also being organized every Sunday involving industry experts and banks with participation of more than 300,000 prospective applicants.

viii. Regular meetings are held by the Ministry and KVIC with Banks.

ix. Champions.gov.in, a unified, empowered, robust and technology driven web based platform with 68 control rooms, have been launched by the Ministry in June, 2020, to promptly redress the grievances of MSMEs and other related stakeholders at the field level.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to reply of part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3475 to be answered on 25.03.2021

Sl. No	States	Artisan enrolled
1	A & N Island	2219
2	Andhra Pradesh	58739
3	Arunachal Pradesh	9401
4	Assam	77741
5	Bihar	130394
6	Chhattisgarh	12908
7	Delhi	15175
8	Goa	9651
9	Gujarat	123039
10	Haryana	32109
11	Himachal Pradesh	14590
12	J & K	97822
13	Jharkhand	99122
14	Karnataka	32614
15	Kerala	46767
16	Madhya Pradesh	80960
17	Maharashtra	51236
18	Manipur	69432
19	Meghalaya	3427
20	Mizoram	3841
21	Nagaland	8379
22	Odisha	175632
23	Pondicherry	14327
24	Punjab	30917
25	Rajasthan	118730
26	Sikkim	2717
27	Tamil Nadu	56578
28	Telangana	37864
29	Tripura	13485
30	Uttar Pradesh	935844
31	Uttarakhand	35390
32	West Bengal	250937
	Total	**2651987**

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