

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1918
ANSWERED ON- 04/08/2023

INCOME OF HANDLOOM WORKERS' HOUSEHOLDS

1918. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that average monthly income of handloom workers' households was just ₹3041 in the country and ₹2481 in Odisha in 2009-10;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that the proportion of handloom households with monthly income less than ₹5000 was 66.3 per cent in the country and 82 per cent in Odisha in 2019-20;
- (c) if so, the reasons for consistently low incomes of handloom households;
- (d) measures taken by Government to enhance income of handloom households; and
- (e) whether Government plans to include the handloom weavers and other artisans under the MGNREGS; and
- (f) if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, the figures are as per 3rd Handloom Census 2009-10 and 4th all India Handloom Census 2019-20 commissioned by Ministry of Textiles. However, according to the Third Handloom Census, it was estimated that 99% of all weaver households earned less than Rs5,000 per month for all over India as well as Odisha State. This proportion has come down for all over India to 66.3% and 82% for Odisha State in the fourth Handloom Census, while proportion earning between Rs5,000 to Rs10,000 a month has gone up to 26.3% for all over India and 14.9% for Odisha State.

(c): The handloom sector is mostly unorganized, and traditional in nature. It faces stiff competition from the powerloom sector in low cost items which can be mass produced in powerloom sector.

(d): To promote growth and development of the handloom sector, Ministry of Textiles is implementing the following schemes:

1. National Handloom Development Programme;
2. Raw Material Supply Scheme;

Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided to the eligible handloom agencies/weavers for procurement of raw materials, common infrastructure development, skilling, marketing of handloom products in domestic/overseas markets, loans at concessional rates, etc.

(e) & (f): MGNREGS is a demand driven, right-based wage employment programme which envisages employment to the rural household who are willing to do unskilled manual work. On the other hand handloom weavers and other artisans involve traditional skilled activities which provide self-employment to weavers and artisans.
