

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-640
ANSWERED ON- 26/07/2024

CRISIS FACED BY TRADITIONAL SILK HANDLOOM WEAVERS

640. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traditional silk handloom weavers are facing acute crises in the country particularly in Bhagalpur, Bihar and Varanasi and other places in eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the weavers are leaving the traditional weaving and opting for other occupations, if so, the reasons, therefor;

(c) the efforts being made to ameliorate the conditions of weavers and to revive the traditional silk handloom industry in the country particularly in Bhagalpur and eastern UP; and

(d) whether Government is considering providing subsidy for the cost of raw material to preserve the traditional silk industry, if so, the reasons, therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) & (b): No such matter has been brought to the notice of the Ministry.

(c): Ministry of Textiles through Central Silk Board is implementing “Silk Samagra-2’ scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26 for the overall development of sericulture industry in the country including Bihar & Uttar Pradesh. Under the above scheme, based on the proposals received from the States, assistance is being provided to stakeholder covering farm to fabric activities of silk chain. The components meant for silk weavers under the scheme are Modified region specific silk handlooms, improved gadgets for loom upgradation (Modified Jacquards, Pneumatic Lifting mechanism, Weft winding machine, Warping machines, Butta making machine etc.), Electronic Jacquard (720 hooks), Tub and Arm Dyeing units for silk, Silk fabric processing & finishing unit, CATD (Computer Aided Textile Design).

Ministry of Textiles is also implementing the following schemes to promote handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers across the country including Bhagalpur, Bihar & Varanasi and other places in eastern Uttar Pradesh:-

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

Under the above schemes, financial assistance is provided to eligible handloom agencies/weavers for raw materials, procurement of upgraded looms & accessories, solar lighting units, construction of workshed, training & skill upgradation, product & design development, technical & common infrastructure, marketing support for handloom products in domestic/overseas markets, concessional loans under weavers’ MUDRA scheme & social security etc. Besides, Mega Handloom Clusters have been sanctioned at Bhagalpur and Varanasi.

(d): Government is providing 15% Price Subsidy for domestic silk under Raw Material Supply Scheme through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Limited.
