

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-***198**
ANSWERED ON- 13/12/2024

SPECIAL SCHEMES TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS FACED BY POWERLOOM INDUSTRY

*198. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the special schemes introduced by Government to address the problems faced by the powerloom industry in Bhiwandi, Malegaon, Benaras and Mau to promote their development;
- (b) whether any financial assistance or subsidies are being provided to promote the powerloom industry in these areas;
- (c) the steps proposed by Government for the welfare of weavers and workers employed in the powerloom industry and to improve their living standards; and
- (d) whether the competitiveness of these industries can be improved by promoting the use of modern technology and equipment under any existing Government scheme?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *198 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 13.12.2024 RAISED BY SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI REGARDING SPECIAL SCHEMES TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS FACED BY POWERLOOM INDUSTRY.

(a) to (d): A number of initiatives have been taken by the Government in order to ensure holistic development of the entire powerloom sector of the country including that of Bhiwandi, Malegaon, Benaras and Mau:-

(i) Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS): Under the scheme, credit linked Capital Investment Subsidy (CIS) is provided to units located across the country for purchase of benchmarked machinery in different segment of Textile Sectors (excluding spinning) across the value chain and across fibers including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and small textile manufacturing units. The validity of the scheme was till 31.03.2022. Currently only committed liabilities are provided under this scheme. A financial support of Rs. 148.11 crore, Rs. 40.11 crore and Rs. 0.93 crore has been provided in Bhiwandi, Malegaon & Benaras respectively under the scheme.

(ii) PowerTex India Scheme: In order to enhance the capacities and competitiveness of decentralized powerloom sector, PowerTex India Scheme was launched on a Pan India basis having, an outlay of Rs. 487 crores for the period 2017-20, which was extended upto 2021. The scheme has now been subsumed under Textile Cluster Development Scheme (TCDS) and support is extended for completing ongoing projects for meeting committed liabilities only. Under the scheme Rs. 57.97 crore, Rs. 8.27 crore, Rs. 2.09 crore & Rs. 0.16 crore have been released to powerloom units in Bhiwandi, Malegaon, Benaras and Mau cluster respectively.

(iii) Textile Cluster Development Scheme (TCDS):- Under this scheme besides other components, Grant-in-aid is provided to powerloom service centres of Textile Research Associations (TRAs) and State Government. There are two powerloom service centres in Bhiwandi cluster and one each in Malegaon, Benaras and Mau cluster. These powerloom service centres provide testing, training, technical consultancy and troubleshooting services to the powerloom industry in these clusters. Training has been provided to 1,497 weavers in these clusters, so far.

(iv) Comprehensive Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme (CPCDS): With an aim at holistic improvement of existing (brownfield) powerloom clusters, Government has been extending financial support of a maximum of Rs. 50 crores for each approved Powerloom Mega Cluster project. The scheme has now been subsumed under Textile Cluster Development Scheme (TCDS) and support is extended for completing ongoing projects for meeting committed liabilities only. Under CPCDS, 5 Powerloom Mega Clusters were sanctioned across the Country as financial support by Government of India including one in Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra.

(v) Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks: With a view to increasing investments, generating employment opportunities and boosting exports in textile sector, the Ministry has been implementing Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) to provide support for setting up textile parks with world-class, state-of-the-art infrastructure in textile hubs across the country. The scheme was in implementation upto 31.03.2021; however, the scheme has now been subsumed under Textile Cluster Development Scheme (TCDS) and support is extended for completing ongoing projects for meeting committed liabilities only. Under SITP, financial support worth Rs.390.87 crores has been extended to 12 Textiles parks in the state of Maharashtra.

(vi) In addition, the Government of Maharashtra is implementing the Integrated and Sustainable Textile Policy 2023-2028 to support various components of the textile value chain in Maharashtra including Powerlooms. The Maharashtra Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (MAHA_TUFS) seeks to facilitate Powerlooms in Maharashtra including in Bhiwandi and Malegaon in augmenting investments, productivity, quality, employment and exports through various incentives to the eligible units for technology upgradation as per specified guidelines.

State Government of Uttar Pradesh is also implementing Chief Minister Handloom and Powerloom Industry Development Scheme. In the financial year 2023-24, a total of 230 weavers, including 66 handloom weavers and 164 powerloom weavers of Mau region, have been provided an amount of Rs 305.560 lakh (as the first installment) under the said scheme.

(vii) Government had been also implementing a Group Insurance Scheme against death/disability for Powerloom weavers. Financial assistance of Rs.15.69 crore for 3,148 death claims and Rs. 5.93 crore of 667 death claims were provided from 2003-2019 under Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) in the state of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh respectively. Besides social security benefits through scholarship of Rs. 48.65 lakh for 5,539 children of powerloom workers were provided under Shiksha Sahayog Yojana in the state of Maharashtra since inception. Since 1.4.2020, the Group Insurance Scheme has been converged with Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).
