

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(Department of Commerce)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3236
ANSWERED ON 28/03/2025

IDENTITY CARDS TO SCULPTORS AND ARTISANS OF THANJAVUR

3236. SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to issue any identity cards to sculptors and artisans of Thanjavur district so as to enable them to export Panchaloka idols without any problems, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the amount of funds and/or loans sanctioned for sculptors and artisans in Thanjavur district; and
- (c) the total number of beneficiaries under such schemes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c) As per Para 2.05 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023, an Import Export Code (IEC) is mandatory for undertaking any export or import activities. The application for an IEC can be submitted online through the DGFT portal at www.dgft.gov.in.

Further, under the National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP), artisans across the country are mobilised, including in Thanjavur district, for the issuance of Aadhaar-linked artisan identity cards (Pahchan) to enable them to avail benefits under the scheme. As of now, a total of **2,680 artisans** in Thanjavur district have been issued Pahchan ID cards.

Under the NHDP scheme, an amount of **Rs. 218.74 lakhs** has been sanctioned in Thanjavur district for implementing infrastructure development, design and skill training programs, and providing financial assistance to artisans in indigent circumstances, thereby directly benefiting **2,445 artisans**.
