

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1597
ANSWERED ON- 01/08/2025

REVIVAL OF KOLHAPURI CHAPPAL ARTISANS

1597. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the Prada controversy over Kolhapuri chappals and the move to collaborate with GI-certified artisans;
- (b) if so, the manner in which the Ministry plans to support Maharashtra's GI artisans;
- (c) the steps that are being taken to protect traditional designs from misappropriation;
- (d) whether financial or branding support is being extended; and
- (e) in what manner the export potential for such artisan products is being promoted?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a): Yes, the Ministry is aware of the Prada controversy over Kolhapuri Chappals through the news coverage.

(b): Kolhapuri chappal was registered under Geographical Indication (GI) in July 2019 by Sant Rohidas Leather Industries & Charmakar Development Corporation limited (LIDCOM), a Government of Maharashtra Undertaking and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation Limited (LIDKAR), Bangaluru, Karnataka facilitated by Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Therefore, the matter has been taken up by the concerned agency in support of the Maharashtra's GI artisans.

(c) & (d): To protect traditional designs infringement the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) provides financial supports for GI registration of the traditional crafts under the Research & Development component of the National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP). It also conducts workshop/seminar to sensitize the artisans about the importance of GI registration & usage as a authorized user. Under the marketing component of the NHDP scheme, marketing events are held from time to time with GI theme pavilion to popularize & educate the consumers.

(e): To promote the export potential of such artisan's product the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) implements craft demonstration programmes in International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, provide support to Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), organize Design and Capacity Building programme, facilitate Digital Onboarding and e-Commerce Enablement to promote GI-Tagged Crafts in both domestic & international markets.
