

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-144
ANSWERED ON- 31/07/2026

DIGITAL PEHCHAN IDENTITY CARDS FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

*144. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of authentic handloom weavers successfully registered and issued digital Pehchan identity cards across the country;
- (b) the details of the direct financial assistance and subsidized yarn provided to these registered weavers under the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP);
- (c) whether Government has seamlessly integrated these rural artisan clusters with major e-commerce platforms to eliminate middlemen and increase profit margins;
- (d) the progress made in establishing modern common facility centers equipped with advanced dyeing and design technologies for the weaver communities; and
- (e) the steps taken to strictly penalize powerloom operators imitating protected handloom designs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *144 TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2026

(a): E-Pehchan cards are available for 35.22 lakh handloom workers identified in the 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20. Further, after the launch of the online registration portal on 28th January 2025, 84,086 additional/new e-pehchan cards have been issued. The portal remains open for eligible handloom workers.

(b): Ministry of Textiles is implementing Central Sector Schemes such as (i) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and (ii) Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS) to promote handlooms and for welfare of handloom weavers across the country.

Under NHDP, direct financial assistance is provided to eligible handloom agencies/weavers for procurement of upgraded looms & accessories, solar lighting units, construction of workshed, skilling, product & design development, technical and common infrastructure, marketing of handloom products, concessional loans under weavers' MUDRA scheme, social security to awardee weavers in indigent circumstances, scholarship to the children of weavers etc. The details of central assistance provided under NHDP across the country during the period 2021-22 to 2026-27 (30.06.2026) are as under: -

(i) Small Cluster Development Programme

- 357 handloom clusters have been taken up for financial assistance of Rs. 481.95 crores.
- 40,431 weavers provided improved looms and accessories under Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata.
- 36,048 handloom workers imparted Skill up-gradation training.
- 5,022 weavers provided Workshed.
- 5,346 weavers provided Lighting units.

(ii) Handloom Marketing Assistance

- 989 marketing events organized
- 6 Craft Handloom Villages have been set up

(iii) Weavers' MUDRA Scheme

- 41,747 beneficiaries provided loans under this Scheme.

(iv) Handloom Weavers Welfare

- 7,36,555 beneficiaries enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.

Further, under RMSS, during the last three years (2023-24 to 2025-26) 1034.53 lakh kg yarn worth Rs. 3892.78 crores has been supplied.

(c): indiahandmade.com, an e-commerce portal has been developed which facilitates online marketing of handloom & handicraft products directly to the buyers/consumers without involvement of any intermediaries.

About 1.50 lakh weavers/handloom entities have on-boarded on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for marketing of handloom products to the Government Ministries and Departments.

(d): Under the Mega Cluster Development Programme and Special Infrastructure Projects components of NHDP, need based financial assistance upto Rs. 30.00 crores and Rs. 12.00 crores respectively is provided for various interventions like upgraded looms & accessories, solar lighting units, workshops, design & product development, development of pre-loom, on-loom and post-loom facilities, promotion of natural/vegetable dyes, setting up of Dye house etc. to Implementing Agencies. During the last three years, three Mega Clusters and eleven Special Infrastructure Projects have been taken up for holistic development of the handloom sector.

Need-based skill upgradation programmes for handloom workers in technical areas viz. weaving, dyeing, designing etc. are conducted under SAMARTH - Scheme (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector) of Ministry of Textiles through Weavers Service Centre (WSCs) and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHTs) as training Centres under SAMARTH for providing training in handloom sector. During 2023-24 to 2025-26, total 22,271 Handloom workers have been trained and during the current year 2026-27 (upto 30.06.2026), 500 handloom workers have been trained under the SAMARTH Scheme.

(e): Enforcement machinery of Central and State Governments are empowered to implement the provisions of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. 11 textiles articles with certain technical specifications are exclusively reserved for production on handlooms. Annual targets for powerloom inspections are fixed and circulated to all the Central and State Government implementing agencies in order to curb violation under the Act. During the last three years 211 FIRs were lodged and 177 convictions were made for violation of the Act.
