

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2397
ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2026

STRENGTHENING OF HANDLOOM SECTOR IN ASSAM

2397. SHRI JOGEN MOHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives taken to strengthen the handloom sector in Assam;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of the socio-economic condition of handloom weavers, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of weavers in Assam benefited under various Central handloom schemes during the last three years, scheme-wise;
- (d) whether Government has established new Common Facility Centres, provided marketing support and proposes additional financial assistance for handloom weavers; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve the income of traditional weavers and the expected impact of these measures on employment in the handloom sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) to (e): Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes/initiatives across the country to strengthen the weavers and handloom sector, including Assam: -

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

Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided to eligible handloom agencies/weavers for raw materials, procurement of upgraded looms & accessories, solar lighting units, construction of workshed, skilling, product & design development, technical and common infrastructure, marketing, concessional loans under weavers' MUDRA scheme, social security, payment to awardee weavers in indigent circumstances, scholarship to the children of weavers etc.

The details of central assistance provided for traditional weavers to the State of Assam during the last 3 years are as follows: -

- (i) Under Cluster Development Programme, financial assistance of Rs. 17.68 crores provided for 19 handloom clusters & various interventions for other than Assisted clusters benefiting 1,096 weavers by providing improved looms/accessories, worksheds and lighting units. Also, 1,758 handloom workers imparted Skill up-gradation training.

- (ii) Under Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS), 5.25 lakh kg of yarn supplied under Transport subsidy & Price subsidy benefiting 42,233 handloom weavers.
- (iii) Under Handloom Marketing Assistance, 54 marketing events organised to facilitate and promote sales of Handloom Products.

In Assam at Sualkuchi in the year 2023-24, mega handloom cluster was sanctioned with GoI share Rs. 29.85 crores and Rs. 14.71 crores have been released as on 30.06.2026 and a project, Development of North East School of Handloom entrepreneurship (NESHE) has been sanctioned in Dibrugarh, Assam under Special Infrastructure Project by implementing agency National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Ltd with project cost Rs. 497.25 lakh, 100% GoI share.

In addition, assistance under the Silk Samagra-2 scheme is provided across the country including Assam to silk weavers for components such as Region-Specific Silk Handlooms, Twisting Units, Electronic Jacquards, gadgets for upgradation of existing looms, winding machines, warping machines, Computer Aided Textile Designing (CATD) Units, Pneumatic Lifting Mechanism (PLM) Units, etc. Based on the proposals submitted by the Government of Assam, central assistance of Rs. 25.83 lakh has been provided for 76 Modified Region-Specific Silk Handlooms, and Rs. 16.96 lakh for 8 Computer Aided Textile Designing (CATD) Units under the Silk Samagra-2 scheme.
