

IMPACT OF COVID PANDEMIC ON HANDLOOM SECTOR

1216. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री
be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the Covid pandemic on the handloom sector, especially the impact on small handloom weavers, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any programs are being implemented to assist handloom weavers rebuild livelihood opportunities after the pandemic, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the widespread sale of counterfeit textiles labelled with Handloom Mark and India Handloom Brand, and Geographical Indication tag, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (d) the measures taken to assist handloom weavers obtain certification of authenticity; and
- (e) State-wise details of public awareness programs conducted regarding authenticity of handloom weavers?

उत्तर
ANSWER
वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती दर्शना जरदोश)
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH)

(a) to (d): A specific study for assessment of pandemic impact has been done by the Government. Due to unorganized and traditional nature of handloom sector, such data, if any, pertaining to this sector is dispersed and largely unavailable for centralized quantification.

To overcome the issues faced by handloom workers during Covid 19 pandemic, the Government has taken following steps:-

- i. The Government of India announced a special economic package viz. AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan for boosting economy of the country and making India self-reliant. Relief and credit support measures were announced for various sectors to revive their businesses and were available to eligible weavers and Handloom Organizations also.
- ii. The States and UTs were requested for their State Handloom Corporations/Co-operatives/Agencies to make purchases of the finished inventory available with the handloom weavers.
- iii. Steps were taken to on-board weavers on Government e-Market place to enable them to sell their products directly to various Government Departments and organizations.
- iv. Under Weaver MUDRA/Concessional Credit Scheme, margin money assistance for individual weaver and Handloom Organizations; interest subvention and credit guarantee fees on loans for a period of three years are provided.

- v. Provision has been made for welfare of handloom workers through life & accidental insurance cover, scholarships for higher education to their wards etc. The guidelines also provide for financial support for Awardee weavers above 60 years of age in indigent circumstances.
- vi. For export promotion of handloom products, Handloom Export Promotion Council has been organizing International Fairs. During the year 2021-22, various international marketing fairs/events were organized in physical/virtual mode. Besides, domestic marketing events were also organized in different parts of the country for the weavers to market and sell their products.
- vii. Weavers are facilitated to sell their products online and 23 e-commerce platforms have been associated by Ministry of Textiles under a policy framework.
- viii. Raw Material Supply Scheme is being implemented throughout the country to make quality Yarn available to Handloom weavers. Under the Scheme, freight charges are reimbursed for all types of yarn; and component of 15% price subsidy is there for cotton hank yarn, domestic silk, wool and linen yarn and blended yarn of natural fibres.

(c): No such complaint/incidence has been reported so far.

(d): The handloom census was conducted during the year 2019-20. The authenticity of the Handloom workers has been ascertained by seeking validation of the census data by the respective State Govts., and feedback thereupon.

(e): To create awareness among the weavers about the new developments of online process of registration and QR coded labels. Textiles Committee has during the year 2021 & 2022 organised 36 clusters Level Awareness Programs (CLAP) across India including 6 CLAP in the N-E states. State-wise list of CLAP conducted during 2021-22, 2022-23 is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of CLAP conducted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1
7.	Kerala	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1
9.	Maharashtra	2
10.	Odisha	1
11.	Rajasthan	1
12.	Sikkim	2
13.	Tamil Nadu	6
14.	Telangana	2
15.	Tripura	2
16.	Uttarakhand	1
17.	Uttar Pradesh	2
18.	West Bengal	4
Total		36
