

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 929  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT ON HANDLOOM SECTOR

929. SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:  
SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI SELVAM G.:  
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:  
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:  
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether handloom sector has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic during the last two years and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government to constitute a committee to review the raw material supply system, marketing and credit facilities and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the production has also come down due to closure of marketing activities during the said period and if so, the State-wise details thereof including the state of Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the income of weavers have also been extremely affected and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to declare an insurance scheme including a special package for the handloom weavers and if so, the details thereof?

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

**(a) to (d):** Due to unorganized and traditional nature of the handloom sector, data, pertaining to this sector is dispersed and largely unavailable for centralized quantification.

To address the issues faced by handloom workers during Covid-19 pandemic, the Government took the following steps across the country including the States of Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Maharashtra: -

- i. The Government of India announced a special economic package viz. Aatma Nirbhar 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. States and UTs were requested to direct their State Handloom Corporations/Co-operatives/Agencies to purchase the finished inventory available with the handloom weavers.
- iii. To enhance productivity, marketing capabilities and facilitate better incomes, 148 Handloom Producer companies (PCs) have been formed in the country, which bring individuals weavers together in a group.
- iv. Handloom weavers were onboarded on Government e-Market place to enable them to sell their products directly to various Government Departments and organizations. An amendment was introduced in rule 153 of General Financial Rule (GFR) 2017, according to which “Of all items of textiles required by Central Government Departments, it shall be mandatory to make procurement of at least 20% from amongst items of handloom origin, from KVIC and/or Handloom Clusters such as Co-operative Societies, Self Help Group (SHG) Federations, Joint Liability Group (JLG), Producer Companies (PC), Corporations, etc. including Weavers having Pehchan Cards”.
- v. Handloom Producers were facilitated by organizing virtual fairs for showcasing Handloom products for B2B buyers/exports for Handloom Workers. 10 virtual fairs were organised in the year 2020-21 and 10 virtual fairs in 2021-22. Besides, 211 domestic marketing events were also organized in 2021-22 in different parts of the country for the weavers to market and sell their products.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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.
- viii. Under Weavers’ MUDRA Loan/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.

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