

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1137
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

LOCAL HANDLOOM WEAVERS

1137. DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details of various schemes being run/ proposed at present in the country for development of small and local handloom weavers who fulfill only local requirements, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether many handloom weavers have opted for alternative sources of livelihood due to lack of work and many persons have been trained to develop their skill in this trade;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the data regarding handloom weavers who quit their occupation during last ten years, State-wise; and
- (d) whether any scheme is being run/proposed at present for the development of weaving skill in the country including in Bundelkhand area and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्रीमती स्मृति ज़ुबिन इरानी)
MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes at present for development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers across the country:

- 1) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- 2) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)
- 3) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)
- 4) Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS)

Under the above schemes, financial assistance is provided for raw materials, purchase of looms and accessories, design innovation, product diversification, infrastructure development, skill upgradation, lighting units, marketing of handloom products and loan at concessional rates.

1. NATIONAL HANDLOOM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NHDP)

- (i) **BLOCK LEVEL CLUSTER:** Introduced in 2015-16 as one of the components of National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP). Financial assistance upto Rs. 2.00 crore per BLC for various interventions such as skill upgradation, Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata, product development, construction of workshed, project management cost, design development, setting up of common facility centre (CFC) etc. is provided. Besides, financial assistance upto Rs. 50.00 lakh is also available for setting up of one dye house at district level. The proposals are recommended by the State Government.
- (ii) **HANDLOOM MARKETING ASSISTANCE** is one of the components of National Handloom Development Programme. In order to provide marketing platform to the handloom agencies/weavers to sell their products directly to the consumers, financial assistance is provided to the States/eligible handloom agencies for organizing marketing events in domestic as well as overseas markets.
- (iii) **WEAVER MUDRA SCHEME:** Under the Weaver MUDRA Scheme, credit at concessional interest rate of 6% is provided to the handloom weavers. Margin money assistance to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per weaver and credit guarantee for a period of 3 years is also

provided. **MUDRA Portal** has been developed in association with Punjab National Bank to cut down delay in disbursement of funds for margin money and interest subvention.

(iv) **HATHKARGHA SAMVARDHAN SAHAYATA (HSS):**

Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata (HSS) was introduced on 1st December 2016 with an objective to provide looms/accessories to the weavers to enhance their earnings through improved productivity and quality of the handloom products. Under the scheme, 90% of the cost of loom/accessory is borne by the Government of India while remaining 10% is borne by the beneficiary. The Government of India's share is released to the supplier through Weavers' Service Centre.

(v) **EDUCATION OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS AND THEIR CHILDREN:**

Ministry of Textiles has signed Memorandums of Understanding with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to secure educational facilities for the weavers and their families. NIOS offers Secondary and Senior Secondary level education with specialized subjects on design, marketing, business development, etc. through distance learning mode for handloom weavers, whereas IGNOU offers continuing education programs through accessible and flexible learning opportunities relevant to the aspirations of handloom weavers and their children for career progression.

The programme envisages reimbursement of 75% of the fee towards admission to NIOS/IGNOU courses in case of SC, ST, BPL, and Women learners belonging to handloom weavers' families.

(vi) **"INDIA HANDLOOM" BRAND-** During the celebration of 7th August 2015 as National Handloom Day, 'India Handloom' Brand was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister for branding of high quality handloom products. It promotes production of niche handloom products with high quality, authentic traditional designs with zero defect and zero effect on environment. Since its launch, 1590 registrations have been issued under 184 product categories and sale of Rs. 926.23 crore has been generated.

Initiatives with various leading brands has been undertaken to bring out a separate range of handloom garments in their brand.

(vii) **E-COMMERCE-** In order to promote e-marketing of handloom products, a policy framework was designed under which any willing e-commerce platform with good track record can participate in online marketing of handloom products. Accordingly, 23 e-commerce entities have been engaged for on-line marketing of handloom products. A total sales of Rs. 110.46 crore has been reported through the online portal.

(viii) **URBAN HAATS** are set up in the big towns/metropolitan cities to provide adequate direct marketing facilities to the craft persons/weavers and eliminate middle agencies. 39 such Urban Haats have been sanctioned across the country so far.

2. **COMPREHENSIVE HANDLOOM CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME:**

The Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) is targeted at development of Mega Handloom Clusters in clearly identifiable geographical locations covering atleast 15000 handlooms with the Government of India (GoI) contribution upto Rs.40 crore per cluster over a period of 5 years. Components such as conducting diagnostic study, corpus for raw material, etc., are fully funded by the Government of India (GoI) whereas components like lighting units, technological up-gradation of looms and accessories are 90% funded by the GoI. Other components such as creation of infrastructure for design studio/ marketing complex/garmenting unit, marketing development, assistance for exports and publicity are 80% funded by the GoI. 08 Mega Handloom Clusters viz. Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Prakasam & Guntur districts (Andhra Pradesh), Godda & neighbouring districts (Jharkhand), Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Trichy (Tamil Nadu) have been taken up for development.

3. **HANDLOOM WEAVERS' COMPREHENSIVE WELFARE SCHEME**

Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) is providing life, accidental and disability insurance coverage under the components Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Converged Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY).

4. **YARN SUPPLY SCHEME:**

Yarn Supply Scheme is being implemented throughout the country to make available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price. The scheme is being implemented through National Handloom Development Corporation. Under the Scheme freight is reimbursed and depot operating charges @2% is given to depot operating agencies. A component of 10% price subsidy also exists on hank yarn, which is applicable on cotton, domestic silk, wool and linen yarn with quantity caps.

(b) to (d): Skill Development:

Samarth (Scheme For Capacity Building In Textile Sector) is a flagship skill development scheme approved in continuation to the Integrated Skill Development Scheme for 12th FYP, Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs. The industry is facing shortage of skilled workers and provides many opportunities for unemployed youth in the country who are trained in the sector. To address the issue, Central government of India has launched *Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)* and named it **SAMARTH Scheme**.

The objectives of the scheme is to provide demand-driven, placement oriented skilling programme to incentivize the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors to promote skilling and skill up-gradation in the traditional sectors, and to provide livelihood to all sections of the society across the country. The scheme would include skill upgradation of handloom weavers across the country including Bundelkhand area. The skill upgradation training is imparted to the handloom workers in weaving, dyeing, designing and processing.

The skilling programmes would be implemented through following **Implementing Agencies**:

- Textile Industry.
- Institutions/Organization of the Ministry of Textiles/State Governments having training infrastructure and placement tie-ups with textile industry.
- Reputed training institutions/ NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Organizations/ Companies /Start Ups / Entrepreneurs active in textile sector having placement tie-ups with textile industry.

The scheme will broadly adopt the following strategy:

- i. Aadhaar enabled biometric attendance system.
- ii. Training by certified trainers having Training of Trainers (ToT) certification by RSA/SSCs
- iii. CCTV recording for entire training programme and assessment process.
- iv. Third party assessment and certification by assessment agencies empaneled by RSA
- v. Placement linked skilling programme with mandatory wage employment in organized sector (70%) and in traditional sector (50%). Post placement tracking for one year.
- vi. Random physical verification of active training centres
- vii. NSQF aligned courses
- viii. Robust MIS and real-time Scheme information publicized in Ministry of Textiles website.
- ix. Call centre (Helpline) set-up to collect feedback
- x. Mobile app for different stakeholders to ease out monitoring and implementation mechanism.
- xi. Preference given to marginalized social groups and 115 aspirational districts
- xii. Funding and Common branding as per norms of MSDE
- xiii. Concessional credit under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana for self-employment.

Further to the above, the handloom sector is an unorganized sector and mostly scattered in rural areas of the country. In view of unorganized nature of the sector, the data regarding the handloom weavers who have quit their occupation is not maintained by the Ministry.
