

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4845
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2021

SETTING UP OF ARTISAN WELFARE FUND TRUST

4845. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of setting up of Artisan Welfare Fund Trust (AWFT);
- (b) whether the Government has achieved the objectives of setting up AWFT and if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (c) the contribution made by artisans and khadi institutions towards the trusts;
- (d) the number of AWFT set up by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the country, State/UT-wise especially in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
- (e) the quantum of funds available with the AWFT during each of the last three years and the number of artisans benefitted out of it; and
- (f) whether the Government has made any assessment on the working of AWFT and if so, the outcome thereof and the other steps taken by the Government for the welfare of khadi artisans?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI NITIN GADKARI)

- (a): The aims and objectives of setting up of Artisan Welfare Fund Trust (AWFT) are to create a welfare fund for the benefit of Khadi Artisans and provide security to artisans.
- (b): Yes, Sir. This fund is utilized for assistance to artisans in fields like medical, educational, maternity, construction of house, etc. As on 31.03.2020, out of 2737 number of registered Khadi Institutions, 2594 Khadi Institutions have taken membership of these trusts. The total deposit with the Trusts was to the tune of Rs. 153.29 crore as on 31.03.2020 and an amount of Rs. 33.30 crore was withdrawn by Artisans for their needs.

(c): As per the AWFT guidelines, artisans contribute 12% of their earning to AWFT with matching contribution by the Khadi Institution to the Trust.

(d): A total of 23 Artisan Welfare Fund Trusts have been set up by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the country. State-wise details is **annexed**. No Trust has been set up in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as there is no Khadi Institution.

(e): The quantum of funds available with AWFT during the last three years and the number of artisans benefitted are follows:

Year	Funds available (Rs. in crore)	No. of Artisans benefitted (in lakhs)
2017-18	116.01	4.63
2018-19	114.57	4.90
2019-20	153.29	4.91

(f): The State Director of KVIC is the Vice-Chairman of the Artisan Welfare Fund Trust in the concerned State wherein the performance of the AWFT is reviewed periodically. The following are being implemented by the KVIC for the welfare of Khadi artisans, other than the AWFT:

- i) Assistance up to 30% of 'Prime Cost' is provided to artisans under 'Modified Market Development Assistance' (MMDA) scheme.
- ii) 'Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans' introduced in 2008-09, provides financial assistance upto to Rs.60000/- to individual Khadi artisan for construction of worksheds for providing healthy working space.

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Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4845 for answer on 25.03.2021

State-wise Artisan Welfare Fund Trusts set up by KVIC in the country

Sl. No.	Name of the State / UT
1	Andhra Pradesh
2	Assam
3	Bihar
4	Chhattisgarh
5	Gujarat
6	Haryana
7	Himachal Pradesh
8	Jammu & Kashmir
9	Jharkhand
10	Karnataka
11	Kerala
12	Madhya Pradesh
13	Maharashtra
14	Odisha
15	Punjab
16	Rajasthan
17	Tamil Nadu
18	Telangana
19	Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow)
20	Uttar Pradesh (Meerut)
21	Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi)
22	Uttarakhand
23	West Bengal