

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 821
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

HANDLOOM WEAVERS

821. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:

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

- (a) the total number of handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu, district-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the number of weavers is declining every year since they are switching over to other professions, if so, the reasons therefor including remedies formulated for their revival; and
- (c) the details of per capita income of a handloom weaver; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that weavers income is reducing every year, if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed for enhancing their income?

उत्तर

ANSWER

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

(a): According to the 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20, the total number of handloom workers in Tamil Nadu State are 2,43,575. District wise break-up of handloom workers in Tamil Nadu State is given at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d): According to 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-2020, total number of handloom worker households is 31,44,839. However number of handloom worker households as per 3rd Handloom Census of India 2009-2010 was 27,83,271.

As per 3rd handloom census:

Average earning of Handloom Households (Rs/Annum, 2009-10): Rs. 36498 (i.e. Rs. 3042 per Month). According to the 3rd Handloom Census it was estimated that 99% of all weaver households earned less than Rs 5000 per month.

As per 4th Handloom Census:

Number of handloom workers household by income:

S.No	By Income per Month (In Rs.)	Total (%)
1	Less than 5000	21, 09,525 (67.1%)
2.	5001-10,000	8, 24,021 (26.2%)
3.	10,001-15000	1, 40,509 (4.5 %)
4.	15,0001- 20000	29,989 (1.0%)
5.	Above 20,001	40,795 (1.2%)

To promote handloom sector, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, is implementing the following schemes 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. 1046.52 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 frame work was designed and 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. Total sales of Rs.123.97 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.

The total number of handloom workers district – wise in Tamil Nadu State according to 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20

S no	District Name	Total Handloom Workers
1	Erode	45045
2	Salem	26252
3	Coimbatore	14983
4	Kancheepuram	10350
5	Virudhunagar	12773
6	Thanjavur	8382
7	Tiruvannamalai	23650
8	Madurai	9004
9	Namakkal	8337
10	Dindigul	8096
11	Ariyalur	8325
12	Kanniyakumari	6753
13	Ramanathapuram	10208
14	Viluppuram	3475
15	Karur	6778
16	Tirunelveli	6232
17	Thiruvallur	2859
18	Tiruchirappalli	3868
19	Vellore	8773
20	Cuddalore	3662
21	Thoothukkudi	1547
22	Sivaganga	895
23	Dharmapuri	510
24	Perambalur	293
25	Thiruvarur	355
26	Pudukkottai	32
27	Nagapattinam	85
28	Tiruppur	10558
29	THENI	1430
30	KRISHNAGIRI	65
31	CHENNAI	0
32	THE NILGIRIS	0
	Total	2,43,575
