

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

COVID PANDEMIC EFFECT ON HANDLOOM ARTISANS

1963. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री

be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Handloom Weavers and Handicrafts Artisans have been affected due to COVID pandemic in country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that a huge number of Artisans and Handloom weavers have lost their livelihood due to lack of access to Markets and Raw Materials; and
- (e) if so, the details of the measures taken by the Government to boost Handloom and Handicrafts Sector?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती दर्शना जरदोश)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH)

(a) to (e): Due to unorganized and traditional nature of handloom and handicraft sectors, such data, if any, pertaining to these sectors is dispersed and largely unavailable for centralized quantification. To overcome the challenges being faced by handloom weavers, the Government has taken the following steps for their welfare:

- i) Since it is not feasible to hold conventional marketing events such as exhibitions, melas, etc. due to COVID-19 pandemic, Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) has been organizing International Fairs in virtual mode, facilitating marketing and sales of Handloom Products in the domestic as well as international markets. During the year 2020-21, 12 handloom fairs were organized by HEPC in virtual mode. The fairs have been attracting considerable attention from both domestic as well as international business entities. Besides, 53 domestic marketing events were also organized in different parts of the country for the weavers to market and sell their products.
- ii) During August-October 2020, 534 number of Chaupals were organized in various States to apprise the weavers about benefits under various handloom schemes.
- iii) To support the handloom and handicraft sectors and to enable wider market for handloom weavers/artisans/producers, steps have been taken to on-board weavers/artisans on Government e-Market place (GeM) to enable them to sell their products directly to various

Government Departments and organizations. So far about 1.50 Lakh weavers have been on-boarded on the GeM portal.

- iv) To enhance productivity, marketing capabilities and ensure better incomes, 125 Handloom Producer companies have been formed in different States.
- v) Design Resource Centres (DRCs) have been set up in Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) at Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati, through NIFT with the objective to build and create design-oriented excellence in the Handloom Sector and to facilitate weavers, exporters, manufacturers and designers access design repositories for sample/product improvisation and development.

Apart from the above new initiatives, the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes for development of handlooms and handicraft and welfare of weavers and artisans:

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);
5. National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP);
6. Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS);

Under the above schemes, financial assistance is provided for raw materials, purchase of looms, accessories and toolkits, design innovation, product diversification, infrastructure development, marketing of handloom and handicraft products in domestic and overseas markets, getting loans at concessional rates, etc.
