

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2312  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022

HELPING HANDLOOM WEAVERS

2312. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:  
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:  
SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the sustained Government support has over the years helped handloom weavers and traditional artisans in the States to survive downturns and competition from powerlooms and modern manufacturers and in creating brands such as Co-optex, a weaver's cooperative etc in all the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this support of the Government also helped the weavers and artisans to showcase their textiles and craft to a larger audience;
- (d) if so, the details including the funds sanctioned/ spent therefor, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government managed to procure and safeguard the livelihood of the weavers in many States even during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (f) if so, the details and present status thereof?

उत्तर

ANSWER

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

**(a) to (f):** For providing sustained support to the Handloom Weavers, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes:

1. National Handloom Development Programme;
2. Raw Material Supply Scheme;

Under the above schemes, financial assistance is provided to the eligible handloom agencies/weavers for raw materials, Common infrastructure development, marketing of handloom products in domestic/overseas markets, Weavers MUDRA Loans etc.

Different States are promoting handlooms in their respective states through State Handloom Corporations, Apex Societies and federations such as Co-optex, Boyonika, Tantuja, APCO, Mrignayani, Upica, Bilasa etc.

To overcome the issues being faced by handloom workers, including ill effects of pandemic Covid-19, the Government has taken following steps to protect livelihood and welfare of handloom weavers and to promote handloom sector across the country:

- i. The States and UTs have been requested to ask their State Handloom Corporations/Co-operatives/Agencies to make purchases of the finished inventory available with the handloom weavers.
- ii. Steps have been taken to on-board weavers on Government e-Market place to enable them to sell their products directly to various Government Departments and organizations. So far about 1.50 lakh weavers and 28,000 artisans have been on-boarded on the GeM portal.
- iii. To enhance productivity, marketing capabilities and facilitate better incomes, 135 Handloom Producer companies (PCs) have been formed in different States of the country.
- iv. Design Resource Centres have been set up in Weavers' Service Centres at Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Kancheepuram 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.
- v. Ministry of Textiles has undertaken to develop Craft Villages in Handloom and Handicraft pockets of the country on important tourist circuits for integrated sustainable development of Handlooms, crafts and tourism with the combined effort of the State and the Central Governments.
- vi. For export promotion of handloom products, Handloom Export Promotion Council has been organizing International Fairs. During the year 2021-22, various international marketing fairs/events have been organised. Besides, domestic marketing events were also organised in different parts of the country for the weavers to market and sell their products.
- vii. Weavers are facilitated to sell their products online and 23 e-commerce platforms have been associated by Ministry of Textiles under a policy framework.
- viii. Marketing platform is provided to the handloom agencies/weavers by organizing marketing expos/events to sell their products.
- ix. Apart from above, National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) are also being implemented for overall development of handicrafts in a holistic manner and to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to the artisans.

The NHDP and CHCDS have following components:

- a. Marketing Support & Services
- b. Skill Development in Handicrafts sector
- c. Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna
- d. Direct Benefit to Artisans
- e. Infrastructure and Technology Support
- f. Research and Development
- g. Mega Cluster