

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2022

DEVELOPMENT OF HANDLOOM SECTOR

3322. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken for the development of Handloom sector in the country especially in west Bengal during the last six years and the present status of this industry during and after COVID-19;
- (b) whether the Government has considered to introduce any new initiative for this industry; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

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

(a) to (c): The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes for development and promotion of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers across the country, including the State of West Bengal:

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.

To overcome the issues faced by handloom workers, the Government has taken steps to protect livelihood and welfare of handloom weavers and to promote handloom sector across the country, including West Bengal. The details of steps taken and the new initiative of the Government in handloom sector are as follows:

- 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 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 pockets of the country on important tourist circuits for integrated sustainable development of Handlooms 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.

In the schemes implemented by the Ministry of Textiles in handloom sector, budget is not allocated State/UT-wise. Funds to eligible handloom agencies are released for various interventions on receipt of proposals as per the extant guidelines of the respective schemes.
