

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2596
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL ARTISANS

2596. SHRI S JAGATHRATCHAKAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of traditional artisans in the country, including the number of artisans engaged in various crafts and the economic contribution of this sector;
- (b) the challenges being faced by traditional artisans, particularly during economic downturns and the manner in which these challenges impact their livelihoods and crafts;
- (c) the details of the initiatives currently in place to support traditional artisans during economic downturns, including any financial assistance programmes or skill development schemes;
- (d) the details of the measures taken by the Government to enhance market access for traditional artisans, particularly in light of competition from mass-produced goods;
- (e) the impact of these support mechanisms on the livelihoods of traditional artisans and the preservation of cultural heritage; and
- (f) the details of any recommendations made by experts or committees regarding further actions needed to strengthen support for traditional artisans in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e) The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India implements two schemes namely National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) for overall development and promotion of handicrafts sector across the country. Under these schemes, need based financial assistance is provided for end-to-end support to the artisans including traditional artisans through marketing events, skill development, cluster development, formation of Producer Companies, direct benefit to artisans, infrastructural and technology support, research and development support etc. which benefit the traditional crafts and artisans throughout the country. Further, this office also provides necessary financial support for registration of crafts under GI Act 1999, to give craft specific recognition to help promote and preserve handicrafts being extinct to modern technological advancements.

As on date, 33.15 lakh Pehchan Identity Cards have been issued under Pehchan initiative by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles.

In addition to above, Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) also provides support for formation of Producer Company to promote rich heritage, craftsmanship and bring entrepreneurial spirit amongst handicraft artisans.

81,276 artisans have been benefitted by Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) during the last three years through Guru Shisya Hastshilp Prashikshan Programme (GSHP), Comprehensive Skill Upgradation Programme (CSUP) and Design & Technology Development Workshop (DDW) under the component of Skill Development in Handicrafts Sector of NHDP scheme. Financial assistance is being provided to 629 artisans under indigent circumstances by Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

(f) No recommendation has been made by Experts or Committees in this regard.
