LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 355 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2025

IMITATION OF SOLAPUR CHADDAR TEXTILES

355. MS. PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the reports regarding the copying and imitation of Solapur Chaddar Textiles in other parts of the country thereby leading to adverse effects on the local textile industry in Solapur and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures being taken by the Government to protect the unique identity and intellectual property of Solapur Chaddar Textiles; and
- (c) whether any initiatives are being planned or implemented to support the Solapur textile industry in terms of skill development, modernization and enhanced market access to counter this challenge and if so, the details thereof?

उत्तर ANSWER वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (**श्री पबित्र मार्घेरिटा**) THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) & (b): The Solapur Chaddar is GI registered product. 104 important and famous traditional handloom products have been registered under the Geographical Indications (GI) of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Registered users of GI products have rights under the Act to approach the respective police authorities to safeguard their interests against illegal manufacturing / marketing of GI registered handloom products.

The Government has been implementing the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 for production of reserved items only on Handlooms and to protect the interest of handlooms weavers in the country. 11 textiles articles with some technical specifications are exclusively reserved for production on handlooms. Central Assistance is provided under the Scheme to eligible State Governments for effective implementation of the Act. Inspections are carried out in the field by respective State Handloom Departments and field offices of the Central Government for enforcing the provisions of the Act.

The Government has introduced 'Handloom Mark' to identify products woven on handlooms. Awareness creation activities are carried out from time to time to popularise these measures.

- (c): The following initiatives are being taken by the Government through various interventions of National Handloom Development programme (NHDP) to support entire country including the Solapur District in Maharasthra in terms of modernization and enhanced market access:
 - (i) Handloom Marketing Assistance (HMA): Marketing events has been organised in the domestic and international arena to promote the handloom products including Solapur Chaddar. In addition, "indiahandmade"- e-commerce portal has been launched to promote e-marketing of handloom products.
 - (ii) Cluster Development Programme (CDP): Need based financial assistance is provided for various interventions like product and design development, up-graded loom and accessories, solar lighting system, workshed etc. on receipt of complete proposals from State/UTs Government to improve the socio-economic condition of handloom workers.

Further, need-based skill upgradation programmes for handloom workers in technical areas viz. weaving, dyeing/printing, designing, etc. are conducted under SAMARTH- (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector) across the country including Solapur District in Maharashtra.
