

PEHCHAN CARDS TO HANDLOOM WORKERS

4055. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) the details regarding the number of handloom workers in Assam and the number who have received Pehchan cards;
- (b) the details regarding the number of handloom clusters in Assam covered under the Comprehensive Handicraft Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) and whether Sualkuchi is amongst this list;
- (c) the details regarding the amount of funds that have been disbursed to clusters in Assam under the CHCDS; and
- (d) the details regarding the number of migrant handloom weavers in Assam's Sualkuchi and the number who have been registered under the One Nation One Ration Card Scheme?

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

(a): As per 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20 report, there are 12,83,881 handloom workers in Assam. The handloom workers enumerated in the 4th All India Handloom Census have been provided either pehchan card or enabled downloading e-pehchan card. An online portal was launched on 28th January 2025, for new registration (left out from the 4th All India Handloom Census and new weavers and allied workers), editing the details of the existing weavers and downloading of e-pehchan cards. Hence, addition/deletion, updation etc. is dynamic and continuous.

(b) & (c): Sivasagar Mega Handloom Cluster had been taken up for financial assistance in the State of Assam under erstwhile Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) and amount of Rs. 15.63 crore has been released from 2014-15 to 2021-22. However, Sualkuchi is not covered under CHCDS. Mega Handloom Cluster at Sualkuchi, Assam has been taken up during FY 2024-25(till 21.03.2025) under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and financial assistance of Rs. 4.80 crore has been provided.

Further, financial support of Rs. 64.85 crore has been provided for 83 clusters under NHDP scheme in Assam State from FY 2015-16 to 2024-25(till 21.03.2025).

(d): Number of migrant handloom weavers is not maintained. The nation-wide portability of ration cards through One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) feature has been enabled for all National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA)/Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beneficiaries in all 36 States/UTs (including Assam). Under this feature, NFSA/PMGKAY beneficiaries may lift their entitled foodgrain from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their existing ration card. There is no requirement of separate registration for ONORC under NFSA/PMGKAY.