

HANDICRAFT ARTISANS REGISTERED UNDER PEHCHAN CARD SCHEME

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

- (a) the number of Handicraft Artisans registered under Pehchan Card Scheme during the last three years in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the details of benefits and entitlements available to handicraft artisans holding Pehchan Cards under various schemes of the Ministry of Textiles;
- (c) whether Pehchan Card holders receive preference in accessing skill development programmes, design training, marketing support, credit facilitation, and health/life insurance under these schemes;
- (d) the number of handicraft artisans who have benefited from the National Handicraft Development Programme, Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme, and other schemes implemented by the Government during the last five years and the current year;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any impact assessment or beneficiary feedback survey regarding the effectiveness of the above schemes in enhancing the livelihood and welfare of artisans; and
- (f) if so, the key findings and remedial steps taken based on such assessments?

उत्तर
ANSWER
वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री गिरिराज सिंह)
MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

(a): Under Pehchan card initiative, the number of artisans registered in the state of Tamil Nadu is as under:

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total (in last 3 years)	Total (till June 2025)
Artisan registered	5,356	3,219	5,599	14,174	84,311

(b): The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles 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 through marketing events, skill development, cluster development, formation of Producer Companies, direct benefit to artisans, infrastructural and technology support and research & development support which benefit the traditional crafts and artisans throughout the country.

(c): Only pehchan card holders are eligible for getting the benefits under the schemes run by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

(d): During the last five years artisans benefitted under the NHDP & CHCDS Scheme and the Samarth Scheme of the Ministry of Textiles is as under:

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Till June 2025)	Total
Artisan benefitted	95,284	1,48,358	1,20,164	1,05,144	1,02,601	7,836	5,79,387

(e): Yes, one study namely “Beneficiaries sentiments survey of schemes and initiatives” was conducted by Ministry of Textile, Government of India for all its schemes. NHDP & CHCDS were also included in this study. The study covered the multifaceted impact of schemes on the beneficiaries.

(f): The Key findings of the study mentioned that, over 70% beneficiaries reported improved income and upliftment in livelihood, over 75% suggested a tangible progress in their production standards, over 60% witnessed significant increase in productivity and enhanced production capacity, 34% faced challenges while accessing new markets, 69% beneficiaries believe that the scheme covers all relevant stakeholders and around 80% beneficiaries agreed that the scheme will have a positive impact at an individual level as well as on their businesses in the long run.

Based on the key findings of the above study, Office of DC (Handicrafts) prepared a saturation plan to increase the reach of artisans to new markets by including new locations in the annual marketing calendar ensuring better reach grounded on various parameters to address the challenges of artisans.
