

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.757  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2016

**DECLINE IN HANDLOOM WEAVERS**

757. SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU:

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

- (a) whether there has been steady decline in the number of weavers engaged in the handloom industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to prepare a long term policy to solve the said problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**उत्तर**

**ANSWER**

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्रीमती स्मृति जुबिन इरानी)  
MINISTER OF TEXTILES  
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

**(a) & (b):** Yes Madam. So far, three handloom censuses have been conducted by the Ministry of Textiles which indicates that there has been decline in the number of weavers engaged in the handloom industries. As per first handloom census (1987-88), there were 67.39 lakh handloom workers across the country which was reduced to 65.50 lakh during second handloom census (1995-96). Further, these declined to 43.31 lakh, during third handloom census (2009-10). State-wise statement is **annexed**. However, share of full-time weavers to total weavers increased to 64% from 44% and share of idle looms decreased to 4% from 10% in third handloom census as compared to second handlooms census.

**(c) & (d):** To Government has made a strategy to promote production and marketing of high value good quality handloom products for increasing earnings of weavers. To implement this strategy, the following schemes are under implementation:-

- (i) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- (ii) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)
- (iii) Yarn Supply Scheme
- (iv) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

## Annexure

**Status of Total Handloom workers as per 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd Handloom Census**

S. No.	State Name	Nos. of Total workers (1987-88)	Nos. of Total workers (1995-96)	Nos. of Total workers (2009-10)
1	Andhra Pradesh	469,086	490,616	355,838
2	Arunachal Pradesh	47,400	53,473	33,041
3	Assam	2,079,238	2,322,268	1,643,453
4	Bihar	241,298	167,707	43,392
5	Chhattisgarh			8,191
6	Delhi	19,727	6,708	2,738
7	Goa	109	25	0
8	Gujarat	69,320	57,936	11,009
9	Haryana	37,640	22,810	7,967
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,387	65,099	13,458
11	Jammu and Kashmir	53,503	51,847	33,209
12	Jharkhand			21,160
13	Karnataka	188,749	177,562	89,256
14	Kerala	78,595	63,153	14,679
15	Madhya Pradesh	79,473	56,106	14,761
16	Maharashtra	147,478	80,901	3,418
17	Manipur	336,954	462,087	218,753
18	Meghalaya			13,612
19	Mizoram			43,528
20	Nagaland	147,617	126,228	66,490
21	Orissa	247,071	246,782	114,106
22	Pondicherry	9,207	7,369	2,803
23	Punjab	24,423	13,160	2,636
24	Rajasthan	84,769	71,915	31,958
25	Sikkim			568
26	Tamil Nadu	758,722	607,675	352,321
27	Tripura	138,886	291,761	137,177
28	Uttar Pradesh	657,987	420,684	257,783
29	Uttarakhand			15,468
30	West Bengal	766,808	686,254	779,103
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,739,447</b>	<b>6,550,126</b>	<b>4,331,876</b>

The table (1995-96) excludes 3 States viz. Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim & 3 new States Chhattisgarh, Uttrakhand, Jharkhand.

\*\*\*\*\*