

### Encouragement to handloom industry

407. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is considering to encourage handloom industry particularly Sholapuri bedsheets and towel producers by providing more incentives; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has been implementing the following Five Schemes for the overall development of Handloom weavers, all over the country, including State of Maharashtra and weavers of Sholapur.

- **Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)**

This scheme provides need based inputs to a "Cluster" of 300-500 Handloom or a "Group" of 10-100 weavers for making them self-sustainable by providing them financial assistance for margin money, working capital, new looms and accessories, skill upgradation, marketing opportunities and for construction of workshed.

Under IHDS, 6 clusters and 47 Group Approach Proposals have been sanctioned for State of Maharashtra during the current financial year 2010-11 and a sum of Rs. 220.54 Lakh has been released. Out of these, 1 cluster and 12 Group Approach proposals have been sanctioned for the development of handloom weavers of Sholapur District and Rs. 48.72 lakh has been released.

- **Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme**

This comprises of two separate schemes viz. the **Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)** for providing Health Insurance to the Handloom weavers and Mahatma **Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY)** for providing Life Insurance Cover in case of natural/ accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident.

Under Health Insurance Scheme (HIS), 1688 handloom weavers and under Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY), 2510 handloom weavers were enrolled during 2009-10 in the State of Maharashtra.

- **Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)**

This scheme provides marketing opportunities and infrastructure support through design development and marketing linkages to assist in the sale of the Handloom products both in domestic and international market.

Under the Scheme, during the current financial year 17 proposals to organize the exhibitions of various levels have been sanctioned for the State of Maharashtra.

- **Mill Gate Price Scheme**

This scheme makes available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom agencies to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom weavers and to optimize their employment potential. Under the Mill Gate Price Scheme during 2009-10, 0.78 lakh kgs. of yarn valuing Rs. 106.31 lakh was supplied in the State of Maharashtra.

- **Diversified Handloom Development Scheme**

This scheme provides assistance for technological and skill upgradation of weavers for design and product development through **25 Weavers' Service Centres and 05 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology** all over the country to improve the productivity and earnings of the handloom weavers. 2 Weavers' Service Centres at Mumbai and Nagpur are functioning in Maharashtra.

#### **Suspending sanction of projects under TUFS**

408. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has suspended sanction of projects under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for suspension of sanctioning such projects;

(c) whether Government has also received representation from textile units to resume new sanctions under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, the expenditure and committed liabilities upto June 2010 have exceeded the 11th Plan allocation of Rs.8000 crores. In this backdrop, Government has suspended sanction of new projects under the Scheme. Representations have been received from Textile Associations to resume new sanctions. Stakeholders meetings have been held and status of resource availability intimated.