

**Assistance to handloom weavers in Uttar Pradesh**

†1841. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of weavers in Uttar Pradesh putting aside the handloom have devised a small powerloom (Jogaad Laghu) which is operated with 1.5 MW power;

(b) if so, whether Government would also provide them all facilities like those provided to handloom weavers; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether condition of weavers is pathetic in Uttar Pradesh and Government does not provide any financial assistance to them; and

(d) if so, whether Government would prepare any scheme to improve the condition of weavers of Uttar Pradesh; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The number of handloom weavers in the country, including Uttar Pradesh is declining whereas powerloom units, including small powerlooms are increasing. The Government provides facilities to those handloom weavers who qualify the definition of 'handloom' under section 2(b) of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985, wherein 'handloom' has been defined as "any loom other than powerloom". For development of powerloom sector and welfare of powerloom weavers, the Government of India has been implementing following schemes throughout the country including Uttar Pradesh:

- (i) Group Insurance Scheme for welfare of powerloom workers
- (ii) Group Workshed Scheme
- (iii) Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development
- (iv) 20% Margin Money Subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

(c) and (d) The financial condition of weavers is generally not healthy and weavers are facing serious constraints/problems in the country, including Uttar Pradesh primarily due to low productivity, stiff competition from powerloom and mill sector, inadequate input supply and marketing facilities/channels as well as insufficient credit flow from institutional sources.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

For holistic development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers, the Government of India, during the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the current financial year, wherein financial support alongwith other benefits are being provided, has been implementing six schemes which are (i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, (ii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, (iii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, (iv) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme, (v) Mill Gate Price Scheme and (vi) Revival Reforms and Restructuring Package.

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been released financial assistance of Rs. 52.98 crore during the If Plan and the current financial year 2012-13 (till 28th February, 2013) for development of one Mega Cluster, 04 large clusters, 50 Small Clusters and 334 Group Approach projects. Rs. 20.98 crore has been released as Marketing Incentive for weavers cooperative societies to promote marketing/sales of handloom products and Rs 11.40 has been released for organising 264 domestic marketing events during Eleventh Plan and the current year 2012-13 (till 28th February, 2013).

During the year 2011-12, 1.78 lakh weavers under Health Insurance Scheme and 11,449 weavers under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana were also covered in the State. Further, the Government of India has approved Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package for waving the overdue loans and interest as on 31.03.2010 (100% principal and 25% interest is borne by Government of India and 75% interest and penal interest, if any, is borne by the banks) of eligible handloom cooperative societies and individual weavers and to provide fresh credit with interest subsidy of 3% for 3 years with credit guarantee to the societies and weavers which are being benefited under the RRR package. Under the RRR package, loans of 12 Apex, 935 primary cooperative societies and 21620 individual weavers amounting to Rs. 64.52 crore of Uttar Pradesh have been waived off till 28.02.2013.

#### **Waiving off loans of weavers in Uttar Pradesh**

†1842. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that weavers of Uttar Pradesh are badly debt ridden;
- (b) if so, whether Government would waive off the loans of weavers as it has waived off that of the farmers;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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