

Declining number of handlooms and weavers

2782. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of handlooms as well as handloom weavers in the country are declining sharply;

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

(c) whether any loan waiver scheme exists for individual weavers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme and the amount of loan waived for individual weavers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The data of 2nd Handloom Census (1995-96) and 3rd Handloom Census (2009-10) as given in the table below indicates that the number of handlooms as well as handloom weavers in the country is on decline.

Year of Census	Nos. of Handlooms	Nos. of Handloom weavers
1995-96	34.861akh	65.50 lakh
2009-10	23.77 lakh	43.31 lakh

The Government has taken up various steps to support handloom sector such as cluster approach, technological upgradation, marketing assistance, revival of viable and potentially viable societies, availability of subsidized yarn and credit, besides providing health and life insurance cover to the handloom weavers through following schemes:-

- Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS);
- Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme;
- Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS)
- Revival Reform & Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector.

(c) and (d) The Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) package for the handloom sector has the provision of waiver of overdue loans (availed for weaving purposes only) and interest (100% principal and 25% interest) as on 31st March, 2010 for individual weavers subject to a maximum Rs 50,000/-. So far, 50403 handloom weavers and 5462 Self Help Groups have been benefited by the scheme with a financial implication of Rs. 94.41 crore.