

**National Policy for handicraft industry**

2783. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to have any National Policy for handicraft industry which is the second largest employing sector of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to have any plans for women employers in the handicraft sector, to provide social and financial assistance and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI) : (a) Yes Sir. The Government proposes to formulate a new National Textile Policy, which will also cover handicrafts sector.

(b) The Government is implementing following seven generic schemes for the promotion and development of Handicraft sector.-

- (i) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana.
- (ii) Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme.
- (iii) Marketing Support Services Scheme.
- (iv) Research and Development Scheme.
- (v) Human Resource Development Scheme.
- (vi) Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
- (vii) Infrastructure Technological Development Scheme.

These schemes are gender neutral and benefits are available equally to women also.

**Programmes for development of weavers**

†2784. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of handloom weavers in various States of the country;

(b) the detail of programmes being run by Government for the development of weavers;

(c) the percentage of raw materials being made available to weavers for weaving and the marketing arrangements made for the finished products; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.