

Market for handloom products

†1547. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of inadequate marketing arrangement, handloom products produced by weavers are not getting sufficient market, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering implementation of a new national textile policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken for solving various problems of country's weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government of India has been implementing National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP). It has Handloom Marketing Assistance as one of its components. Under this component, financial assistance is provided to organize domestic marketing events like District Level Events, State Level Handloom Expos, National Level Handloom Expos, Craft melas etc., which provide a marketing platform to the weavers/handloom agencies to sell their products. Financial assistance is also given to participate in the international exhibitions. During the year 2013-14, 376 domestic marketing events and participation in 22 international exhibitions were approved.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has constituted an Expert Committee headed by Shri Ajay Shankar, Member Secretary, National Manufacturing Competitive Council for reviving Textile Policy 2000 and formulating a new National Textile Policy. The Expert Committee is yet to submit their report on handloom, handicrafts and technical textiles.

Promotional incentives to handloom weavers of West Bengal

1548. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that handloom cotton sarees made in West Bengal are very popular in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the full potential of producing handloom cotton sarees of the State remain untapped; and

(c) if so, the promotional incentives Government proposes to extend to the handloom weavers of West Bengal who make cotton sarees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to tap the full potential of handloom, including production of cotton sarees in the State, the following developmental and promotional schemes for handloom weavers of West Bengal are implemented by Government of India:—

1. National Handloom Development Programme—two components:—
 - (i) Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme
 - (ii) Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package for handloom sector
2. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme two components:—
 - (i) Health Insurance Scheme for access to health care facilities
 - (ii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for life insurance
3. Yarn Supply Scheme
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

In addition to above, the State Government has informed that they are also implementing following schemes for handloom weavers including those engaged in making cotton sarees:—

- (i) Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme in Dakshin Dinajpur District (Special Central Assistance under Backward Region Grant Fund).
- (ii) Production and marketing of Cheaper Variety of cotton Sarees.
- (iii) Setting up of modern dye house.
- (iv) Setting up of State Design Centre at Tantuja Bhavan, Salt Lake City.
- (v) Setting up of rural Handloom Haat.
- (vi) Old age pension to the handloom weavers.

Apart from the above, the following incentive schemes have been introduced by the State Government *w.e.f.* September, 2013:-

- (i) 10% State subsidy for export promotion.
- (ii) 6% interest subsidy on working capital to PWCS/Clusters/Handloom Groups.
- (iii) 5% additional marketing incentives over and above of existing marketing. Incentive funded equally by the GOI and State subject to a maximum ceiling to ₹ 5.00 lakh per PWCS.
- (iv) Power consumption in weaver's household to be treated as domestic consumption.

Empowering handloom weavers

1549. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to examine the feasibility of mechanizing any two out of the three basic motions of shedding, picking and beating and in the process convert the handloom industry to powerloom, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Sub-committee formed by the Ministry to go into the details of this proposal does not have a representative of weavers and on the country only has representatives of the powerloom industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the recent steps taken by Government aimed at empowering handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government had constituted a Sub-Committee to examine the issue of change of definition of handloom. The sub-committee examined the issue and given its recommendation based on the representations of the stakeholders and recommended that in the process of weaving, the weaver does not use power and hence definition of handloom need not be changed and it should remain in the purest form. The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has accepted the report of the sub-committee. The press brief has also been released for the public.

(b) The sub-committee constituted by the Ministry of textiles did not have any representative from handloom or powerloom weavers to examine the issue of change of definition of handloom. However, the committee had discussed in detail all the aspects of this issue with handloom and powerloom weavers in different clusters of the country.