

NJB does not make any State-wise allocation of funds and its activities are not State specific.

Proposal to extend MGNREGA to weavers

476. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development to extend MGNREGA to weavers also, if so, the details of the proposal;

(b) whether any response from the Ministry of Rural Development has been received in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for approaching the Ministry of Rural Development again, after it had rejected the earlier proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to enhance the wage earning of the handloom weavers and to impart them retraining on their traditional weaving activities, Ministry of Rural Development was requested to cover handloom activity as one of the permissible activities under MGNREGA. There have been Inter Ministerial correspondence on this proposal. According to present view, weavers are skilled workers whereas MGNREGA is for unskilled workers. Moreover weavers normally sell their produce whereas MGNREGA is primarily aimed to give employment and to create permanent assets. "MGNREGA is demand-driven right-based wage employment programme which envisages provision of a guaranteed 100 days of wage employment to the rural households who are willing to do unskilled manual work. Weaving activity is a self-employment and skilled activity. Thus, handloom weaving activity will not come within the purview of MGNREGA 2005".

Promotion of traditional textiles of tribal people

477. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state:

(a) the plan to help and encourage traditional textiles of tribal people alongwith the details of its implementation in various States and the number of beneficiaries thereof;

(b) whether such traditional textiles are exported also; and

(c) if so, the details and the volume of such trade with specific information on how such profit is transferred to tribal weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government of India has been

implementing following schemes during the 12th Plan to help and encourage traditional textiles of tribal weavers, development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers throughout the country:—

1. National Handloom Development Programme
2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
3. Yarn Supply Scheme.
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

As per Handloom Census (2009-10), there are 43.31 lakh persons engaged in weaving and allied activities in the handloom sector. To encourage all traditional textiles including tribal people various exhibitions such as National Handloom Expos, Special Handloom Expos, District Level Events, Buyer-Seller-Meet and Fashion shows etc. under the marketing assistance component of National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) are being organized. Funds are being released to Nodal Agency identified by the State Governments for preparing conditions, which are conducive to marketing of handloom products. The agency is expected to use this amount towards activities that would attract the consumers in order to gear up overall sales of handloom goods.

(b) No export data is available for traditional textiles since the existing data is made available on HS Code-wise and these products do not have a separate HS Code in international market.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds to improve conditions of weavers

†478. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds made available by the Ministry for improving the financial condition of weavers in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of steps taken to impart training to the weavers and make them skilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government of India has been implementing following schemes during the Twelfth Plan for development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers throughout the country:—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.