

(c) The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has forwarded the letter to the Ministry of Textiles for appropriate action by the Ministry which in turn has been forwarded to HHEC by the Ministry. HHEC has informed that as on date no margin money is blocked/pending for any small trader engaged with HHEC for import of Bullion.

#### **Purchase of jute at MSP by JCI in West Bengal**

1574. MS. DOLA SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) why Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has been unable to buy raw jute in West Bengal at Minimum Support Price (MSP); and
- (b) what are the future plans of the Central Government to overcome this and to make it upto the mark, in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Jute Corporation of India (JCI), a PSU under this Ministry is doing MSP operation and purchasing raw jute of prescribed quality through 90 procurement centres, out of which 48 Departmental Purchase Centres and 13 Cooperative agencies are in West Bengal. So far, JCI has procured 354284 qntl of raw jute out of which 217896 qntl are from West Bengal and its procurement operation is still underway. Based on need & demand, further additional centres for procurement can be opened by JCI.

The Government of India is committed to the payment of MSP to the jute growers in India, by ensuring that the jute at MSP will be purchased by JCI wherever and whenever market price rules below MSP. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) taking into account factors such as cost of production, overall demand/supply situation, domestic and international prices etc. recommends the MSP of raw jute of TD-5 for every jute season (July-June).

The Government has raised the MSP of jute from ₹ 3200/quintal in the year 2016-17 to ₹ 3500/quintal in 2017-18, a rise of 9.38% in comparison to previous year's price.

#### **Improvement of economic condition of weavers**

†1575. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to improve the economic conditions of weavers;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of export of handlooms textiles during the last three years, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is implementing the following schemes to improve economic conditions of handloom weavers:

1. **National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP):** NHDP aims at development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers through various interventions like cluster programme, marketing assistance, concessional credit etc.
2. **Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS):** Yarn Supply scheme aims to make available various types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to eligible handloom weavers. Under the scheme, 10% subsidy is provided on cotton, domestic silk and woollen hank yarn with quantity cap.
3. **Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme:** Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) aims at integrated and holistic development of the mega handloom clusters, having at least 15000 handlooms per mega cluster, with financial outlay up to ₹ 40.00 crore per cluster.
4. **Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata (HSS):** Hathkargha Samvardhari Sahayata (HSS) was introduced on 1st December 2016 with an objective to provide looms/accessories to the weavers to enhance their earnings through improved productivity and quality of handloom products. Under the scheme, 90% of the cost of loom/accessory is borne by the Government of India while remaining 10% is borne by the beneficiary.
5. **Education of Handloom Weavers and their Children:** Ministry of Textiles has signed Memoranda of Understanding with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to secure educational facilities for the weavers and their families. NIOS offers Secondary and Senior Secondary level education with specialized subjects on design, marketing, business development, etc. through distance learning mode for handloom weavers, whereas IGNOU offers continuing education

programs through accessible and flexible learning opportunities relevant to the aspirations of handloom weavers and their children for career progression.

Ministry of Textiles is providing reimbursement of 75% of the fee towards admission to NIOS/IGNOU courses in case of SC, ST, BPL, and Women learners belonging to the handloom weavers' families.

**6. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme:**

This scheme has following two components:

- (i) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana(MGBBY) provides life insurance cover to handloom weavers in case of natural / accidental death, total/ partial disability due to accident. Handloom Weavers in the age group of 18-50 years are to be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana w.e.f. 1st June,2017, whereas handloom weavers in the age group of 51-59 years will continue to get coverage under MGBBY.
- (ii) Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) provides health care facilities to the handlooms weavers and it has been subsumed with Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana since 29th March, 2016.

- (c) Quantum of export of handloom textiles during last three years is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Quantum of export (in ₹ Crore)
1.	2014-15	2246
2.	2015-16	2353
3.	2016-17	2392

**Status of PSU textile units**

1576. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Textile Units under public undertaking including their places, names and number of employees; and

(b) the status of profit, number of temporary employees who are working for more than ten years?