

Problems faced by Telangana handloom weavers

1172. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government's attention has been drawn to a research project of the Kakatiya/University, Warangal on problems faced by Telangana handloom weavers particularly in Karimnagar district; and

(b) if so, what steps are planned to address issues identified in the report particularly women weavers/related problems in areas like compensation package and working conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by Ministry of Textiles. However, the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes for the development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers across the country including weavers of Telangana State:-

- (1) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- (2) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Programme (CHCDS)
- (3) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)
- (4) Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS)

Under the above schemes, financial assistance is provided for raw materials, purchase of looms and accessories, design innovation, product diversification, infrastructure development, skill upgradation, marketing of handloom products, loan at concessional rates etc.

A. National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP):

- (i) Block Level Cluster: Introduced in 2015-16 as one of the components of National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP). Financial assistance upto ₹ 2.00 crore per BLC for various interventions such as skill upgradation, Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata, product development, construction of workshop, project management cost, design development, setting up of common facility centre (CFC) etc. is provided. Besides, financial assistance upto ₹ 50.00 lakh is also available for setting up of one dye house at district level. Physical and financial performance of this component is indicated below.

- (ii) Handloom Marketing Assistance is one of the components of National Handloom Development Programme. In order to provide marketing platform to the handloom agencies/weavers to sell their products directly to the consumers, financial assistance is provided to the States/eligible handloom agencies for organising marketing events in domestic as well as overseas markets. Physical and financial performance of this component is indicated below.
- (iii) Weavers' MUDRA Scheme: Under the Weavers' Mudra Scheme, credit at concessional interest rate of 6% is provided to the handloom weavers. Margin money assistance to a maximum of ₹ 10,000 per weaver and credit guarantee for a period of 3 years is also provided. MUDRA portal has been developed in association with Punjab National Bank to cut down delay in disbursement of funds for margin money and interest subvention. Physical and financial performance of this component is indicated below.

B. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme:

The Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) is implemented for development of Mega Handloom Clusters covering atleast 15000 to 25,000 handlooms and financial assistance as GoI share from ₹ 40.00 to ₹70.00 crore is in a period of 5 years. 8 mega handloom clusters taken up as announced in the Budgets *i.e.* Varanasi, Sivasagar (2008-09), Virudhunagar, Murshidabad (2009-10), Prakasam and Guntur districts and Godda and neighboring districts (2012-13), Bhagalpur and Trichy (2014-15).

Under the scheme, components like conducting Diagnostic Study, engaging Designer, Product Development, Corpus for raw material, Construction of Worksheds (for BPL/SC/ST/Women weavers), Skill up-gradation etc. are fully funded by Government of India, while the components like Technology up-gradation, Design Studio, including the Computer Aided Design System, Marketing Complex, Value Addition (setting up of garment unit), Common Infrastructure, Publicity etc., are funded by the GoI to the extent of 80%.

C. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme:

Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) is providing Handloom Life, accidental and disability insurance coverage under the components Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Converged Mahatma Gandhi Bumkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY).

D. Yarn Supply Scheme:

Yarn Supply Scheme is being implemented throughout the country to make available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price. The scheme is being implemented through National Handloom Development Corporation. Under the Scheme freight is reimbursed and depot operating charges @2% is given to depot operating agencies. A component of 10% price subsidy also exists on hank yarn, which is applicable on cotton, domestic silk and woollen yarn with quantity caps.

E. Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata (HSS):

Hathkargha Samvardhan 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 the 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. The Government of India's share is released directly in the Bank account of the beneficiary through designated agency.

F. Education of handloom weavers and their children:

Ministry of Textiles has signed Memorandums 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 handloom weavers' families.

A Statement showing scheme-wise funds released in the last three years is at Annexure-I.

Details of funds released for the handloom agencies of Telangana in the last three years are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds released (₹ in crore)
1.	National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) & Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)	₹4.99 crore
	(i) Block Level Clusters	
	(ii) Marketing Events	

Note: Funds under Handloom Weaver's Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) and Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS) are released only to LIC and National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC) respectively.

Annexure-1

Statement referred to in part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1172 for answer on 13-02-2019

Statement showing scheme-wise funds released in the last three years (₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	National Handloom Development Programme	133.96	153.56	135.05
2.	Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme	37.26	40.11	31.82
3.	Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	18.61	26.56	24.98
4.	Yarn Supply Scheme	321.96	261.35	199.84
	TOTAL	511.79	481.58	391.69

Impact of climate change on labourers

1173. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has performed or is aware of any study on impact of climate change on labourers and if so, details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has planned any initiatives to help the labourers from the increasing number of heat-waves in the country and if so, the details thereof?