

Improvement in performance of PSUs in steel sector

†1229. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed Public Sector Undertakings of steel sector, including Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to improve their performance on various parameters as against private companies and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Public Sector Undertakings are not only lagging behind the international benchmarks, but are also behind their private counterparts and are indifferent towards tapping their potentials; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) There are two steel manufacturing Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Steel namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). The Government reviews and evaluates Public Sector Undertakings in the steel sector on the basis of their own performance on various parameters in the MoUs as entered into by them with Ministry of Steel.

(b) and (c) Most of the Integrated Steel Plants in the Public Sector under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) were set up in 1960s and 1970s except Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) which was set up in 1990s. Some of the technologies and equipments adopted therein have since become old and obsolete. Accordingly, techno-economic efficiency parameters are also not at par with modern plants set up in the country. Both the Public Sector Undertakings have taken up modernisation/expansion programmes to *inter-alia* address the problem of technological obsolescence.

Amendment of Handloom Reservation Act to protect handloom industry

1230. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to amend Handloom Reservation Act to protect handloom industry from powerlooms;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the State-wise allocation and expenditure in welfare schemes for handloom and handicraft sectors since 2014;

(c) total accrual towards waivers of loans of handloom weavers, balance amount and interest earned thereon from Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) package available with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD); and

(d) the steps taken by Government to constitute a committee on problems of handloom handicraft artisans/weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 adequately protects handlooms from Powerlooms. Therefore, there is no need to amend the Act. Further, implementation of the Act is a State subject.

(b) (I) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes for promotion & development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers across the country:

- (1) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- (2) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (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, Flathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata, product development, construction of workshed, 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.

- (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.
- (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.

(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 Go! 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 & 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 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 Bunkar 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.

Note: Under the Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme and the Yarn Supply Scheme, the funds are released to the implementing agencies *i.e.* LIC of India and NHDC respectively. The details of funds allocated and released are as under:

Sl. No.	Scheme	Funds released since 2014-15 (₹ in crore)	
		Funds allocated	Funds released (upto Jan.2019)
1	Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	138.02	114.05
2	Yarn Supply Scheme	1070.46	1033.95

Under the NHDP and CHCDS, funds are not allocated State-wise and releases are made based on the viable proposals received. A statement showing State-wise amount released under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) since 2014-15 is given in Statement (*See below*).

(II) Schemes for the development of handicrafts & welfare of the artisans

1. National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP)
2. Comprehensive Handicraft Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)

Under the NHDP and CHCDS, funds are not allocated State-wise and releases are made based on the viable proposals received. A statement showing State-wise amount released under National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) and the Comprehensive Handicraft Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) since 2014-15 is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package was implemented for Handloom Sector through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during 28.11.2011 to 28.02.2014. Under the RRR Package, ₹ 719.15 crore accrued towards waiver of loans of handloom weavers, and ₹ 21.88 crore is balance with NABARD. No interest has been earned as the funds are lying in the non-interest bearing accounts.

(d) The Boards are constituted from time to time, separately for Handlooms and Handicrafts to advise the Government in formulation of the programmes for overall development of the handloom sector.

Statement-I

State-wise amount released under NHDP and CHCDS since 2014-15

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Funds released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.42
3.	Assam	57.33
4.	Bihar	6.97

Sl. No.	State	Funds released
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.31
6.	Delhi	0.42
7.	Gujarat	4.13
8.	Haryana	0.25
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.91
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.49
11.	Jharkhand	16.63
12.	Karnataka	3.71
13.	Kerala	4.70
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5.58
15.	Maharashtra	4.94
16.	Manipur	6.59
17.	Meghalaya	5.40
18.	Mizoram	6.84
19.	Nagaland	4.33
20.	Odisha	20.94
21.	Rajasthan	1.33
22.	Sikkim	1.80
23.	Tamil Nadu	159.30
24.	Telangana	4.99
25.	Tripura	4.18
26.	Uttar Pradesh	61.71
27.	Uttarakhand	2.09
28.	West Bengal	28.14
29.	Other Institutions	51.63
TOTAL		523.33

Statement-II

State-wise amount released under National Handicraft Development Programme and CHCDS since 2014-15

Sl. No.	State	Funds released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.06
3.	Assam	21.22
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.11
5.	Bihar	14.50
6.	Chandigarh	1.05
7.	Chhattisgarh	5.72
8.	Daman and Diu	0.05
9.	Delhi	67.38
10.	Goa	0.73
11.	Gujarat	26.38
12.	Haryana	5.27
13.	Himachal Pradesh	7.88
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	41.63
15.	Jharkhand	18.18
16.	Karnataka	8.26
17.	Kerala	12.68
18.	Madhya Pradesh	22.58
19.	Maharashtra	7.21
20.	Manipur	11.02
21.	Meghalaya	2.77
22.	Mizoram	1.27
23.	Nagaland	4.54
24.	Odisha	17.30

Sl. No.	State	Funds released
25.	Puducherry	0.97
26.	Punjab	8.53
27.	Rajasthan	27.81
28.	Sikkim	2.00
29.	Tamil Nadu	17.71
30.	Telangana	8.24
31.	Tripura	2.61
32.	Uttar Pradesh	103.41
33.	Uttarakhand	18.73
34.	West Bengal	8.33
35.	All States (R&D)	1.33
36.	All States (Welfare)	27.73
TOTAL		571.31

Improvement and development of textile sector

†1231. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of steps have been taken for the improvement and development of textile sector during the last four years which primarily includes technology upgradation, research and development, investment in human resources and promoting the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian textile has become an incredibly trustworthy brand on world map in an unprecedented manner due to the steps taken for improvement and development in textile sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to facilitate development of the textiles sector, Government is implementing several key schemes and programmes for ensuring

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