

for conformance to various national and international standards. 14 of these laboratories are accredited as per ISO 17025:2005. Further, the Government has entered into an MoU with (Japan Textile Products Quality and Technology Center- QTEC) for a promotion of Quality of Textiles meant for export to Japanese market.

- (ix) **Textiles India 2017:** The Ministry of Textiles organized a 3 days mega textile exhibition namely, Textiles India, 2017 from 30th June to 2nd July, 2017 at Gujarat. The Principal objective of organizing the said mega event was to bring all segments of the Textiles sector under one umbrella trade event and showcase the strength of the Indian Textiles sector to the world. This event witnessed participation of buyers from 105 countries, international delegates and representatives and artisans and weavers.

These initiatives have benefitted textile industry in becoming second largest manufacturer and exporter in the world, after China. The textile industry is intrinsically intertwined with the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the country. The fact that 45% of textiles and apparel exports to developed countries is a testimony to the unique brand of Indian textiles.

Welfare of rural artisans

1232. DR.VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry possesses any data of rural artisans all over the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) what schemes and programmes the Ministry has been working with for empowerment of the artisans and the handicrafts in general; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has any structured coordination mechanism with other Ministries to boost export of Indian handicrafts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Till date, 23.08 lakhs handicrafts artisans have been mobilised under PAHCHAN initiative. The State-wise data of handicrafts artisans is given in the Statement (*See below*).

- (b) Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) implements various schemes for empowerment of the handicrafts artisans under "National Handicraft

Development Programme (NHDP)" and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS).

The NHDP has following components:—

- (1) Base Line Survey and Mobilization of Artisans under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana
- (2) Design and Technology Upgradation
- (3) Human Resource Development
- (4) Direct Benefit to Artisans
- (5) Infrastructure and Technology Support
- (6) Research and Development
- (7) Marketing Support and Services

The CHCDS has following components:—

- (1) Mega Cluster
- (2) Special projects under Integrated Development and Promotion of Handicraft

Under direct benefit to artisans, following schemes are being implemented for welfare of the handicrafts artisans:—

- (1) **Bima Yojana for Handicrafts Artisans :** Under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana/Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana for the age group of 18 to 50 years and Modified Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana for the age group of 51 to 59 years who were enrolled as on June, 2017.

The artisans enrolled under the scheme are provided insurance protection through Life Insurance Corporation of India as per details given below:—

For the age group of 18 to 50 years.

- ₹2 lakh is payable on beneficiary's death due to any cause, for one year period from 1st June to 31st May.
- Risk coverage available will be ₹2.00 lakh for accidental death and permanent total disability and ₹1.00 lakh for partial disability for one year period from 1st June to 31st May.

For the Age group of 51 to 59 years

Benefits	
Natural Death	₹ 60,000/-
Accidental Death	₹ 1,50,000/-
Total disability	₹ 1,50,000/-
Partial Disability	₹ 75,000/-

(2) **Support to artisans in Indigent circumstances:** To mastercrafts persons @ ₹3500/- per month who are recipient of Shilp Guru Awards, National Awards or merit certificate or State awards and should not be less than 60 years and annual income should not exceed ₹50,000/-. The applicant should not be a recipient of similar financial assistance from any other source.

(3) **Interest subvention:** To the artisans to facilitate them credit access through interest subsidy @ 6% subject to actual maximum to ₹1.00 lakhs over a period of 03 years who have availed the MUDRA loan. The subsidy would be disbursed through PNB portal to the artisans account.

(4) **Margin Money:** The scheme has the objective to provide Margin Money to the artisans availing Mudra Loan under Direct Benefit to artisans component, which has been included during the current financial year 2018-19 to ensure the availability of concessional credit to the account of the beneficiaries.

20% of MUDRA loan amount will be given as Margin money in their loan amount not exceeding to ₹ 10,000/-. The amount will be transferred by the Nodal Bank to their accounts.

(5) **Issuance of identity cards:** Identity cards to handicrafts artisans under PAHCHAN initiatives are being issued to avail the benefit of the schemes of Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

(c) Under the preview of Ministry of Textiles, two of its Exports promotion council namely Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) participate in various international events and carry out export promotion activities with the grant from MAI scheme of Ministry of commerce Government of India to boost exports.

Under Marketing Support and Service Scheme (MSS) of Office of Dev. Commissioner (Handicrafts) the following activities are undertaken to boost export of Indian handicrafts.

- Participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad;
- Thematic display and live demonstration of handicrafts in exhibitions abroad;
- Organizing buyer-seller meets in India and abroad;
- Brand image promotion of Indian handicrafts abroad through seminars and publicity;
- Awareness programmes about technology, packaging and export policies in India to exporters;
- Organizing Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs as well as product specific shows;
- International publicity campaign for overseas buyers.
- E-Marketing of Handicrafts products. and
- Setting of warehouse and showrooms of handicrafts and carpets abroad to capture untapped market.

Statement

State-wise status report of handicraft artisans as on 04.02.2019

States	Total No. of artisans Identified
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1777
Andhra Pradesh	54584
Arunachal Pradesh	6590
Assam	70173
Bihar	115070
Chhattisgarh	12908
Delhi	14865
Goa	9482

States	Total No. of artisans Identified
Gujarat	114207
Haryana	30746
Himachal Pradesh	12531
Jammu and Kashmir	91143
Jharkhand	36335
Karnataka	24710
Kerala	38478
Madhya Pradesh	83712
Maharashtra	46336
Manipur	69418
Meghalaya	2716
Mizoram	3260
Nagaland	5264
Odisha	110825
Puducherry	13019
Punjab	27584
Rajasthan	97047
Sikkim	2312
Tamil Nadu	35692
Telangana	33729
Tripura	10507
Uttar Pradesh	870316
Uttarakhand	31814
West Bengal	230990
TOTAL	2308140