

Government does not set up training centres directly under the scheme but leverage the existing training set up of the partners by providing them necessary support for operational requirements. During currency of previous phase of scheme till November, 2017, total 6885 training centres were functional.

In addition to the above, Research and Development in textiles sector has been given a boost with participation of research agencies including Textiles Research Associations (TRAs), research laboratories, Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology (UTs) and industry associations. Further, in order to boost promotion of technical textile in the country, 8 numbers of Centres of Excellence and 10 numbers of Focus Incubation Centres have been established for research, development and growth of technical textile product and applications. The Centres of Excellence are driven by various Textile Research Associations (TRAs), Universities and IITs.

Scheme to promote handloom industries

†1237. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any schemes to promote handloom industry;
- (b) if so, the detailed information thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes for promotion and 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,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 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. 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 :** Office of Development Commissioner for handlooms is implementing Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) to enable the handloom weavers/workers to avail social security benefits.

The scheme have two components namely:—

- (i) Life, accidental and disability insurance coverage under the components *i.e.* PMJJBY, PMSBY and Converged MGBBY during the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20; and
 - (ii) Health Insurance coverage on the RSBY pattern for the year 2017-2018.
- (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 funds released for implementation of above schemes in the last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement

Statement showing scheme-wise funds released in the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	(₹ In crore)		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
		Funds released	Funds released	Funds released
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

Closure of jute mills

1238. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of jute mills in various States including Odisha have been closed or are on the verge of closure;