

**'Hunar Haat' initiative**

1242. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the TOTAL number of master artisans and craftsmen benefited so far, across India through the 'Hunar Haat' initiatives;
- (b) the amount spent so far, in this initiative;
- (c) whether the 'Hunar Haat' initiatives has benefited master artisans and craftsmen from the State of West Bengal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI):

(a) to (d) Ministry of Minority Affairs launched Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme on 14th May, 2015 to preserve the rich heritage of traditional arts/crafts of minorities. Hunar Haat is being implemented since 2016-17 as a component of USTTAD scheme. The Hunar Haat is an effective platform wherein opportunity is given to minority artisans/craftsmen and culinary experts from across the country to showcase and market their finest handicraft and exquisitely crafted indigenous products. So far, 2,451 craftsmen/artisans and culinary experts, including 96 craftsmen/artisans and culinary experts from West Bengal, have been directly benefited under the Hunar Haat component of the USTTAD scheme. Further, Hunar Haats have generated employment and employment opportunities for more than three lakh artisans/craftspersons and culinary experts and associated persons and have strengthened their market linkages in the 20 Hunar Haats organized so far through National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) and Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) since November, 2016 at India International Trade Fair, New Delhi, (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019), Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi, (February 2017, February, 2018 and January, 2019), Puducherry (September 2017, October 2018), Mumbai (January, 2018, December, 2018 and December 2019), Prayagraj (September 2018 and November 2019), Jaipur (Aug.,-Sept., 2019), Ahmedabad (December 2019), Hyderabad (January 2020), Lucknow (January, 2020), Indore (February 2020) and India Gate Lawns, New Delhi (February, 2020). Since 2016-17, an amount of ₹ 25.45 crore has been spent towards organizing the Hunar Haat component of USTTAD scheme.