

2. **Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme:** The Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) is targeted at development of Mega Handloom Clusters in clearly identifiable geographical locations covering at least 15000 handlooms with the Government of India (Gol) contribution upto ₹40 crore per cluster over a period of 5 years. Components such as conducting diagnostic study, corpus for raw material, etc., are fully funded by the Government of India (Gol) whereas components like lighting units, technological up-gradation of looms and accessories are 90% funded by the Gol. Other components such as creation of infrastructure for design studio/ marketing complex/garmenting unit, marketing development, assistance for exports and publicity are 80% funded by the Gol. 08 Mega Handloom Clusters viz. Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Prakasam & Guntur districts (Andhra Pradesh), Godda & neighbouring districts (Jharkhand), Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Trichy (Tamil Nadu) have been taken up for development.
3. **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).
4. **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, wool and linen yarn with quantity caps.

1402. *The Question was cancelled.*

1403. *The Question was cancelled.*

Financial stress on spinning sector

1404. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recent spurt in cotton prices has resulted in higher input costs for the spinning sector in the country leading to financial stress;

(b) whether Government has any proposal for reducing the financial stress; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) There is no such information about the recent increase in cotton prices resulting in higher input costs for the spinning sector in the country. Indian cotton prices are ruling in the range of Rupees 35000 to 36900 per candy as against average International cotton prices of around Rupees 40500 per candy.

(b) and (c) In view of above, there is no proposal in this regard. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is selling the stock of lint cotton in a transparent manner through e-auction.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on textile industry

1405. DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry has been facing a crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government to save and boost the textile industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Textile sector is highly unorganized sector. The government has initiated special measures to help ameliorate the conditions in textile sector due to Covid pandemic and to boost production, marketing and job opportunities in the sector. The government has conducted a study viz. 'Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on Indian silk industry' to ascertain the crisis caused to the sector. The industry has faced various problems of production, cocoon and raw silk prices, transportation problem, non-availability of skilled workers, sale of raw silk and silk products, working capital and cash flow, reduced export/import orders, besides restrictions. The last three month orders and supply as given below shows declining trend in jute production during the peak Covid-19 period which is substantially improving now.