

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 740
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021

Setting up of AWFT

740. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of setting up of Artisan Welfare Fund Trust (AWFT) ;
- (b) the contribution made by artisans and Khadi institutions towards the trusts;
- (c) the number of AWFT set up by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the quantum of funds available with the AWFT during each of the last three years and the number of artisans benefitted out of it;
- (e) whether Government has made any assessment on the working of AWFT and if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the other steps taken by Government for the welfare of Khadi artisans?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI NITIN GADKARI)

- (a): The aims and objectives of setting up of Artisan Welfare Fund Trust (AWFT) are as under:
- i) To create a welfare fund for the benefit of the artisans who are not the employees of the Institutions, but who are self-employed and make livelihood by working for Institutions and in turn receive money for the work done by them in accordance with the cost chart.
 - ii) To give the artisans security to their own contributions and the equal contribution from the Institutions, so that their social and the monetary insecurity is ameliorated to some extent.
 - iii) To create, regulate and manage the fund for the artisans so that they can avail of the same in case of their need for their own benefit and benefit of their family.
 - iv) To do such other activities for the benefit of the artisans.

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(b): As per the AWFT guidelines, Khadi Institutions collect 12% of artisans earning as their contribution to AWFT and deposit the amount along-with matching contribution of the Institution to the Trust.

(c): A total of 23 AWF Trusts have been set up by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the country. State-wise details are **annexed**.

(d): The quantum of funds available with AWFT during the last three years and the number of artisans benefitted are follows:

Year	Available Funds (Rs. in crore.)	No. of Artisans Benefitted (in lakhs)
2017 - 18	116.01	4.63
2018 - 19	114.57	4.90
2019 - 20	153.29	4.91

(e): The State Director of KVIC is the Vice-Chairman of the Artisan Welfare Fund Trust in the concerned State wherein the performance of the AWFT is reviewed periodically and the issues pertaining to AWFT are resolved in the meetings.

(f): The following are being implemented by the KVIC for the welfare of Khadi artisans, other than the AWFT:

- i) Under 'Modified Market Development Assistance' (MMDA), financial assistance at 30% of Prime Cost is distributed amongst Producing Institutions (20%), Selling Institutions (10%), Artisans (40%) and best performing Khadi Institutions (30%).
- ii) 'Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans' introduced in 2008-09, provides financial assistance to Khadi artisans belonging to BPL Group for construction of worksheds. The objective of the scheme is to provide better ambience, more working and storing space for keeping raw material, implements and accessories, yarn/cloth, etc., thereby improving efficiency and productivity of the artisans. Under the schemes, financial assistance upto to Rs.60000/- is provided to individual artisans.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 740 for answer on 08.02.2021

State-wise Artisan Welfare Fund Trusts set up by KVIC in the country

Sl. No.	Name of the State / UT
1	Andhra Pradesh
2	Assam
3	Bihar
4	Chhattisgarh
5	Gujarat
6	Haryana
7	Himachal Pradesh
8	Jammu & Kashmir
9	Jharkhand
10	Karnataka
11	Kerala
12	Madhya Pradesh
13	Maharashtra
14	Odisha
15	Punjab
16	Rajasthan
17	Tamil Nadu
18	Telangana
19	Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow)
20	Uttar Pradesh (Meerut)
21	Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi)
22	Uttarakhand
23	West Bengal