

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:992
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2006
WOMEN ARTISANS
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of artisans in handicraft industry and the number of women out of them.
- (b) whether women artisans are facing problem due to absence of good working conditions at their work place;
- (c) if so, the measures taken in this regard;
- (d) whether there is no provisions for providing credit facilities to women artisans at concessional rates; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

- (a): As per the census of Handicrafts conducted by NCAER during 1995-96, the total number of handicrafts artisans were 47.61 lakhs, out of which, 22.57 lakhs are women artisans.
- (b): Yes Sir, In general Handicrafts Artisans including women face problems of working conditions at their work place.
- (c): The Government is implementing Workshed scheme for handicraft artisans, including women, under which financial assistance is provided to implementing agencies like NGOs, State/Central Handicraft Development Corporations etc. for construction of worksheds.
- (d)&(e): Credit Guarantee Scheme has been launched for the benefit of handicrafts artisans, which includes women artisans also. The scheme is implemented under the umbrella of Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries (CGTSI) with an objective to alleviate the problem of collateral security or third party guarantee and to remove impediments to flow of credit to Handicrafts Sector. The facility of credit is extended to all the artisans irrespective of gender on similar terms and conditions. The facility of Artisans Credit Card is also being extended to artisans including women artisans to raise small credits for purchase of raw material and other incidental expenditures during production.