

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:890
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
INSURANCE SCHEME FOR WEAVERS
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether frequent changes are being made in the insurance schemes introduced as weavers welfare schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to the shortcomings in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : The Government of India was implementing a Group Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers since 1992-93 till December 2003. The annual premium under the scheme was Rs.120/- per weaver which was shared equally by the weaver, the State Government and the Government of India. The sum assured for natural death was Rs.10,000/-. The scheme did not cover accidental death. The scheme was replaced by the Bunkar Bima Yojana in December 2003. The objective of the Bunkar Bima Yojana was to provide an enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death. The sum assured under the Bunkar Bima Yojana was Rs.50,000/- for natural death and Rs.80,000/- in case of accidental death. Besides this, a scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child was available to the Students studying in standards IX to XII for a maximum period of 4 years. The benefit was available for two children of the member covered under the Bunkar Bima Yojana. The

annual premium was Rs.380/-, out of which the weaver's share was Rs.130/-, LIC's share was Rs.100/- and the Government of India's share was Rs.150/-.

The Bunkar Bima Yojana was modified in 2005-06 and rechristened as Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

(MGBBY) for providing insurance cover of Rs.50,000/- for natural death and Rs.80,000/- for accidental death with a reduced premium of Rs.330/- per annum. The scholarship benefit available under the Bunkar Bima Yojana is also available under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana. Out of total premium of Rs.330/- the weaver's share is Rs.80/-, LIC's share is Rs.100/- and the Government of India's share is Rs.150/-. The scheme is implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). This scheme is an improvement over the old scheme because the weavers' contribution is less by Rs.50/- per annum in new scheme for same amount of benefits.

Health Insurance Scheme

The Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) was introduced in 2005-06 in place of the earlier Health Package Scheme in which the upper limit for the reimbursement claims received from the State Governments was only Rs.1500/- in a year. The scheme covered only the individual and not members of his family. The newly introduced Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) covers not only the weaver but his wife and two children also. It covers all pre-existing and new diseases. The maximum limit per family is Rs.15000/- per annum out of which the OPD cover is Rs.7500/-.

Thus the newly introduced Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and the Health Insurance Scheme aim at providing more benefits to the handloom weavers.