

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:51  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007  
PROBLEMS OF WEAVERS AND ARTISANS  
Dube Shri Ramesh

**Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the problems being faced by the weavers and the artisans in various parts of the country;
- (b) the policy of the Government towards solving these problems;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to establish a monitoring system to ensure proper implementation of various schemes/programmes for the weavers and the artisans; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.51 FOR 14.08.2007.

(a) The Handloom Sector is facing stiff competition from cheap powerloom products due to various reasons. There is a high wage component in the cost of handloom products vis-À-vis powerloom. Powerlooms also enjoy the advantage of superior technology and economies of scale. Handloom weaving is still largely a household enterprise and a predominantly rural activity, dispersed all over the country whereas powerlooms are better organized in terms of procurement of inputs and organization of market. The handloom sector being labour intensive by nature, the cost of products are high. The powerloom sector besides offers identical products in the market at a cheaper price which poses a problem to handloom sector in marketing its products, leads to accumulation of handloom stocks at various levels. Accumulation of stock leads to blockage/shortage of working capital, which in turn leads to over dues of Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies to banks, resulting in choking up of credit lines.

As far as handicrafts artisans are concerned, the constraining features are scarcity of appropriate raw material, lack of infrastructural facilities, lack of working capital, lack of knowledge about appropriate technology, lack of entrepreneurial skills among artisans and competition from machine made products.

(b) The Government of India is following a policy of promoting and encouraging the Handloom Sector through number of programmes and schemes to increase its production, productivity and efficiency and enhance the income and socio-economic status of weavers by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructure and marketing support and essential inputs. The handloom sector forms a part of the National Textile Policy 2000, the details of the policy measures undertaken to promote and develop its exclusiveness for the global market are as under:-

(i) Training of weavers engaged in the production of low value added items, who may not be able to survive the competition consequent on globalization, with the objective of upgrading their skills to enable them to find alternate employment in the textile or other allied sector;

(ii) Comprehensive welfare measures will continue to be implemented in close cooperation with the State Governments, for better working environment and the social security of the weavers;

(iii) Effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages will be provided;

(iv) The implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 will be reviewed keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers;

(v) Weavers Service Centres will be revamped in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using Information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID;

(vi) As merchandising and marketing will be central to the success of the handloom sector, the present package of schemes for production of value added fabrics will be streamlined; innovative market-oriented schemes will be introduced; and joint ventures

encouraged both at the domestic and international levels. Brand equity of handlooms will be commercially exploited to the extent possible.

(vii) Recently, Cluster Development approach has been adopted to organize producer's self help groups and link them to market.

During the 11th Five year plan, following schemes are proposed for development of handloom sector:-

- (i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme
- (ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
- (iii) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
- (v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

The policy of the Government to address the problems of handicraft sector includes implementing various schemes for benefits and welfare of the artisans. During the 11th Five year plan the following schemes are proposed for implementation which shall address these concerns:-

- (i) Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana
- (ii) Marketing Support and Service Scheme
- (iii) Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme
- (iv) Welfare Scheme
- (v) Human Resource Development Scheme
- (vi) Research and Development Scheme

(c) & (d): The schemes being implemented by the Government of India for development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers are being implemented through the State Government/agencies. The schemes are being monitored regularly through the Directorate-in-Charge of Handlooms of the respective States and the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms.

A monitoring system is already in place for proper implementation of the schemes for handicrafts artisans. The implementation of schemes is monitored regularly by the Field Officers at the level of Assistant Director and Regional Director. Based on their inspection reports the settlement of claims and future interventions are decided. In order to make the implementation more effective, guidelines have been framed which are periodically revised to further strengthen the monitoring system.