

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:345
ANSWERED ON:11.07.2014
RELIEF PACKAGE TO SILK FARMERS
Maragatham Smt. K.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any relief package for silk weavers of the country including waiving off their loans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the silk weavers in the country?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman)

(a) to (c) : The Ministry of Textiles, GoI had formulated the Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector as per the guidelines issued on 28th November, 2011. State Level Apex Societies and all the functional Primary Weavers Societies including Silk Weavers' Cooperative Societies were covered under the Scheme.

NABARD has reported that it had implemented the Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector (including silk weavers) during the financial year 2012-13 and 2013-14 in 26 States including Tamil Nadu. The above package contained, inter alia, the provision for one-time waiver of overdue loans and interest as on 31st March, 2010 for individual weaver loans (other than "receivables" from Central and State Governments).

The State-wise details of sanction, including Tamil Nadu, under the Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector are given in Annexure.

NABARD has reported that fresh loans are being extended by banks to handloom sector including silk weavers. As per National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), the provision of margin money upto Rs.10,000/- and interest subvention upto 7% for three years is available.