

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 05.05.2010
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY WEAVERS .

4453

Smt. Kusum Rai

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of weavers committed suicide since 2007 till date, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether condition of weavers is very miserable and they are unable to cater to the basic needs of their family;
- (c) whether survey will be conducted in this regard;
- (d) if not, the reasons for neglecting the millions of poor weavers;
- (e) whether weavers in UP have demonstrated against the policies of Government;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether Government will announce any financial package during 2010-11 to ameliorate the plights of poor weavers; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

(SMT. PANABAANKA LAKSHMI)

(a): The information were called from all State Governments /Union Territories. Only the following States have reported suicides committed by the weavers due to poverty, family disturbance, financial and other domestic problems. The details of suicide committed by weavers since 2007 and the current year are as under:

Name of State	2007	2008	2009	2010
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Andhra Pradesh	75	77	21	7
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Orissa	-	01	01	-
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Kerala	-	05	-	-
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(b):No, sir. The weavers in the handloom sector generally belong to the rural sector. They have to depend on the steady supply of basic inputs like yarn, credit, looms, accessories etc. at reasonable rates especially as they face stiff competition from the organized mill and powerloom sectors and also in marketing of finished products. Government of India is implementing number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom and powerloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the following schemes are being implemented for the upliftment of weavers :-

1. Handloom Sector

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

2. Powerloom Sector

- i) Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Cluster Development
- ii) Group Insurance Scheme
- iii) Group Workshed Scheme
- iv) 20% Credit linked Capital Subsidy

(c):The Government of India is conducting 3rd National Handloom Census.

(d):Does not arise.

(e) & (f):No such report has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(g) & (h):This Ministry constituted a High Level Committee headed by Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to look into the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the handloom sector. The Committee suggested a financial package for handloom sector which includes waiver of overdue loans and interest of Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies/Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies and provision of loan to handloom weavers at low rate of interest. The Financial Package is under consideration.