



CHAPTER XIV

SC/ST AND WOMEN WELFARE

HANDICRAFTS SECTOR

In the handicrafts sector about 32.5% of the outlay in respect of identified Central Sector Schemes is earmarked for the benefit of the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and women artisans with an allocation of 15%, 7.5% and 10% respectively. The major schemes in which this allocation has been made are (I) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastashilp Vikas Yojana, (II) Design and Technology Upgradation, (III) Marketing Support and Services, (IV) Export Promotion, (V) Research & Development, and (VI) UNDP Projects - all these schemes play a very vital role in the empowerment and upliftment of women artisans in the country.

Women constitute a major segment of handicrafts workers i.e. around 46.8% of the total workforce. There are certain crafts,

which are practiced predominantly by women like Embroidery, Beadwork, appliqué, durries, shawls, Cane and Bamboo, Artistic Weaving, Mat Weaving. Special attention is being paid to ensure that a large number of women artisans get benefit in all the development schemes such as training, marketing related programmes, National Awards, exhibitions etc. being implemented by the Office of the DC (Handicrafts), Voluntary organizations like Self-employed Women's Association, Ahmedabad. SHASHA, Kolkota, Mahila Kalyan Samithi, Pilibhit, SHRUJAN Trust, Bhuj, etc. are being financially assisted to encourage women participation in various crafts activities. During the year 2002-2003, the total anticipated outlay for special component plan for scheduled caste, tribal sub-plan and special component plan for women are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of scheme	Total outlay	TSP *	SCP*	WSP*
1	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastashilp Vikas Yojana	8.80	1.32	1.45	1.76
2	Design and Technology Upgradation	26.00	3.90	4.29	5.20
3	Marketing Support and Services	13.35	2.00	2.20	2.67
4	Export Promotion	7.50	1.13	1.24	1.50
5	Research & Development	2.50	0.38	0.41	0.50
6	UNDP Projects	5.33	0.80	0.88	1.07
	Total	63.48	9.53	10.47	12.70

* Estimated, TSP- Tribal Sub Plan

SCP –Special Component Plan, WSP- Women Sub Plan



HANDLOOM SECTOR

Handloom Sector occupies a place of eminence in preserving the Country's heritage and culture and plays a vital role in the economy of the country. It has a long tradition of excellence in its craftsmanship. In terms of employment, over 65 lakh persons are engaged in handloom weaving and allied activities with 35 lakh looms. Among weavers, 65% are women and 32% belong to SC/ST category (as per the joint census of handlooms & powerlooms 1995-96).

In order to assist the Handloom Weavers as a whole including SC/ST and women weavers, the Government of India has been implementing many Schemes through State Governments for the overall Development of the Handloom Sector for the purpose of (i) Employment Generation, (ii) Modernisation

and upgradation of technology, (iii) Input support, (iv) marketing support, (v) Publicity & Exhibition, (vi) Infrastructural support, (vii) Welfare measures, (viii) Composite Growth (ix) Development of Exportable Products (x) Research & Development (xi) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana and (xii) National Centre for Textile Design (NCTD) for providing design input for value addition. Since most of the handloom weavers are below the poverty line and belong to the down trodden and marginalised section of the society, the Government has made the welfare of the weavers, a primary concern. In view of above, provisions have been made for a comprehensive package. In the case of agencies having 100% SC/ST/ Women/Minorities population, the grant portion is shared in the ratio of 75:25 between the centre and the State under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.