

Approach

For the Government, weavers' welfare is a sacred covenant to be fulfilled through

- **Increased productivity and enhanced returns** to handloom weavers; and
- **Well-directed welfare measures** that directly target the weavers.

Initiatives taken

- (i) Average budgetary allocation for handlooms during the 5 years of the previous government was only Rs. 115 crore. This **allocation has been increased to Rs. 156 crore this year, an increase of 35%**. Further funds of Rs.100 crore have also been committed for new Schemes announced in the Budget.
- (ii) A special handloom package has been announced to bring a special focus on the productivity and the welfare of the handloom workers. This consists of:
 - a. Scheme for **Integrated Handloom Cluster Development** with an outlay of Rs. 40 crore for **development of 20 clusters** during this year;
 - b. Holistic approach to address gaps in infrastructure, design development, input supply and marketing at each cluster;
 - c. Coverage of the Bunkar Bima Yojana (Life Assurance Scheme) extended **from 2 lakh to 20 lakh weavers** at an additional cost of Rs. 30 crore; and
 - d. The coverage under the **Health insurance scheme extended from**

0.72 lakh in 2004-05 to 2 lakh weaver families for the year 2005-06 at an additional cost of Rs. 30 crore.

- (iii) The seven different schemes being implemented in handloom sector like the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) were reviewed and restructured for better direction.
- (iv) Under the Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP), coverage of trainees for design development has **increased three times from 5,850 in 2003-04 to 16,500 in 2004-05**.

14. Initiative in Handicraft Sector Importance

- Employs 67 lakh artisans, of whom substantial numbers are women; and
- Contributes nearly Rs. 13,000 crore to the export earnings.

The Government is engaged in a pursuit to increase the returns of the artisans of providing design and marketing support. The Ministry is implementing eight different schemes for this purpose.

Initiatives in 2004-05

Budget

Allocation enhanced from **Rs. 60 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 103 crore in 2005-06**.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana

- 112 new projects sanctioned under Scheme to benefit 30,572 artisans;

- Formation of 1800 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and 16 Common Facility Centres (CFCs); and
- Rs. 21 crore provided under the scheme.

Export promotion

- 258 marketing events like Craft Bazaars/Expos & Exhibitions organised, which benefited about 18,000 artisans;
- **The Indian Handicraft & Gift Fair** conducted twice a year at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, which attracted a large number of international buyers and business worth Rs. 2,000 crore was generated;
- The Handicraft Mart established at Dallas, US with showroom and warehouse facilities, would help Indian exporters in substantially cutting down their delivery time;
- International Buyer-Seller Meets conducted; and
- Exports increased by 29.07% during the year.

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)

- Constructed the **Indian Exposition Mart, Greater Noida** an ultra modern Exhibition-cum- Convention Centre, for promotion of handicrafts at a cost of Rs. 410 crore;
- 18-lakh sq ft of Mart areas with International standards of display and marketing of handicrafts;
- Permanent display facilities for about 900 firms; and
- Constructed with the total participation of the Industry.

Design Development

- About 3300 new designs developed in 338 Design Workshops/Projects; and
- Financial assistance given to State Governments for setting up 13 Design Centres.

Welfare measures

- 29,667 artisans covered under Bima Yojana; and
- 23,869 artisans issued Artisans Credit Card.

Jammu & Kashmir Package

Under the Package:

- Satellite Centre of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) in Srinagar and Craft Development Institute has been setup;
- Short-term training programmes in carpet designing and design/ product





A view of Hasthakala Bhavan at Baba Kharag Singh Marg, New Delhi

- development or handicrafts have been conducted;
- Generation of additional employment of 20,208; and
- Sanctioning of 797 work sheds for handicrafts artisans, and Rs.95 lakh released.

Hasthakala Bhavan

The State emporia located at Baba Kharag Singh Marg in Delhi were modernised and reconstructed with a grant of Rs. 18 crore for providing:

- 80,000 square feet area for direct marketing of handicrafts by Self Help Groups, NGOs;

- Thematic Galleries for exhibition of handicrafts; and
- Offices to 4 new States' Handicraft Emporia.

15. Public Sector Enterprises and Welfare of Workers

In accordance with the commitment of the NCMP, resolute measures have been taken to revamp and strengthen the PSEs under the administrative control of the Ministry.

- Out of the eight existing PSEs, three PSEs — National Textile Corporation (NTC), British India Corporation (BIC) & National Jute Manufactures Corporation (NJMC) are sick and have been referred to Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

- The remaining PSEs — the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), Central Cottage Industries Corporation Ltd. (CCIC), Handlooms & Handicrafts Export Corporation of India Ltd. (HHEC), Jute Corporation of India Ltd.(JCI) and National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC) have been making profit.

Rehabilitating the sick PSEs

The three sick PSEs are those chronic loss-making enterprises, which were nationalized in the past.

Due to the pro-active role undertaken by the Government, these PSEs were **saved from liquidation and their rehabilitation schemes approved by BIFR.**

National Textile Corporation (NTC)

Rehabilitation Scheme of **NTC**, which eluded solution for nearly 10 years, has been approved.

- Proposed rehabilitation scheme to cost nearly Rs. 3,900 crore and is currently under implementation. The scheme is largely self-financing and resources for its implementation would be generated by leveraging the surplus assets;
- An authorised Group of Ministers has been set up to take quick decisions in the matter;
- The Government sacrificed Rs. 6,000 crore through capital restructuring to make the NTC rehabilitation possible;
- The implementation has been retarded due to shortfall in resources caused by the reluctance of certain State Governments (mainly Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) to issue permission for sale of the land;

- This year, **due to the active role played by the Union Minister for Textiles, a breakthrough has been achieved in persuading Government of Maharashtra** to agree for the sale of 5 mills in Mumbai in the first instance. Due to the efforts made by the Ministry/NTC Hon'ble Supreme Court has dismissed the claims of certain vested interests and allowed NTC to sell the above properties to generate resources for the welfare of the labour and modernisation of the mills.

- With the amount so generated, **modernisation of 22 mills** is being undertaken immediately, after which, the **Company is expected to be self-reliant;**
- Sanctioned the merger of all the NTC subsidiary Companies to achieve administrative economies and thereby improve efficiency; and
- A liberal VRS has been given to workers, Rs. 1700 crore has already been incurred on VRS payments to nearly 43,000 employees.

British India Corporation (BIC)

Rs. 214 crore rehabilitation scheme proposed by the Government for **BIC** has been accepted by the BIFR and is currently under implementation.

The process has however, slowed down on account of reluctance of Government of UP to allow conversion of leasehold lands to freehold.

Due to the efforts of Union Minister for Textiles, the issue has been resolved and the rehabilitation process is now expected to re-start.

National Jute Manufactures Corporation (NJMC)

The Government has decided to offer VRS to all the affected employees of **NJMC** at an estimated cost of Rs. 978 crore and the attempts are on for the revival of two mills in due consultation with the BRPSE.

The year under review is a landmark year because all the long-pending issues that came in the way of rehabilitation of these PSEs, have been sorted out.

16. Welfare of Workers in Private Mills

It has been a relentless pursuit of Government to protect the interests of the workers in the closed private mills through the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS).

- The number of employees covered under the scheme has gone up from 343 in 2003-04 to 3,298 in 2004-05 registering an increase of 862%.
- The disbursements increased from Rs. 1.11 crore to Rs. 8 crore; and
- This is the biggest jump ever achieved under this scheme. There would be no flagging in efforts till each eligible worker in the closed textile mills gets his dues.

17. Protecting the Interests of Farmers

Minimum Support Price (MSP) Operations in Cotton

- The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has undertaken **record MSP operations** because of the slump in the cotton prices in 2004-05.

- 27.09 lakh bales of cotton have been procured at a cost of Rs. 2,662 crore;
- The MSP operations were **the highest ever undertaken**; and
- Nearly 10 lakh farmers benefited.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) Operations in Jute

- Minimum Support Price for Jute fixed at Rs. 910 per Quintal that is 21% more than what the previous government has given in 1999-2000;
- Government provided Bank Guarantee for Rs. 33 crore and also released Rs. 20 crore to JCI for undertaking these operations; and
- 1.6 lakh jute formers directly benefited by these MSP operations.

18. Special Package for North Eastern Region

- Expenditure on Package for the North Eastern Region increased from 47.65 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 63.75 crore in 2004-05. This is an increase of 34%, which is one of the highest ever; and
- Major activities undertaken for promotion of handlooms, sericulture and handicrafts.

19. Activities of the Textiles Committee

The Textiles Committee is geared up to assist the Industry in enhancing its performance by providing quality inspection, certification and classification of apparels. The Textiles Committee is equipped with:

- Seventeen state of the art laboratories;
- Expertise for consultancy on implementation of ISO 9000 QMS, ISO 14000 EMS and Social Accountability 8000 standards;
- Capability to train to industry personnel for improving productivity; and
- Undertaking industry specific Research and Development activities.

20. Glorious Past- Gorgeous Future

MADE IN INDIA Brand to Revive the India's Glorious History in Textiles

India's artistic heritage is so rich, her treasury of ancient bronzes and sculptures so vast, that often the art of weaving is ignored. Yet this is the one Indian art form which has consistently

spanned the gulf between India's cultural past and her cultural present.

The same genius which created the rich brocades worn by the Emperors of China creates the brocades worn by Indian brides and bridegrooms today. The fabrics which the Roman Emperors named the *Woven Winds of India*, prized muslins such as *The Morning Dew* and *The Cloth of Running Water* once woven for the Mughal Emperors, the weightless silk which wrapped the body of the Buddha, are still woven by the master weavers of India and bought by modern Indians, sustaining an art form which provides millions of people employment. Even more important than the ability to reproduce the great textiles of the past is vitality that inspires the brilliance of contemporary Indian weaving.



Shri Shankersinh Vaghela, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, being welcomed during the Inauguration of Silk Week

Historically the Discovery of several spindles as well as pieces of cotton clothes struck to silver vase, established beyond doubt that the spinning and weaving of cotton was known to the Harappans nearly five millenia ago.

While a variety of plant fibres such as *kuhsa* or *darbha*, *kushornah*, *kshauma* (a type of linen), *umah* (flex), and *shanaha* (jute) were prominently used for weaving textiles in the early Vedic Period, it is only in the texts of the post-Vedic period that references to cotton begin to appear.

References to weaving also abound in Vedic Literature. The Gracco-Roman sources of Indian History, the epics, the Puranas, the classical Tamil Sangam literature, the Muslim and European accounts of India and the scores of inscriptions, sculpture, paintings, oral traditions and the surviving techniques of weaving, needlework, designs and materials provide a wealth of information on the textile history and "living traditions" of India.

The foundations of the Indian textile trade with other countries were laid some time in the second and first centuries B.C. Kalyan, a port mentioned by Cosmas, is one from where textiles were exported. A variety of fabrics called po-tie ("cotton brocade" or "cotton stuff") is mentioned in authoritative Chinese works as an Indian product which was exported to China from Ho-Lo-Tan or Java."

Hoard of fragments of cotton material originating from Gujarat have been found in the Egyptian tombs at Fostat, belonging to 5th century A.D. Some of the motifs were similar to those found in the 13th Century Western Indian

manuscript illustrations, whereas others resembled the block-printed ajrakh fabrics of Kachchh, Northern Gujarat the lattice work of Islamic architecture in Gujarat.

Patola, the double-ikat silk fabric, was a popular item of Indian export to Indonesia around 13th century where Indian, Portuguese, Dutch and other merchants used them to barter for spices. Towards the end of the 17th century, the British East India Company had begun to export silks, blends of cotton and silk, and plain cotton including very fine muslin from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The trade in painted and printed cottons or chintz, a favourite in the European market of the time, was extensively practised between India, China, Java and the Philippines, long before the arrival of European traders.

The UPA Government is keen to revive the golden era of Indian Textiles. For achieving this, it would implement a concentrated effort to build and promote the MADE IN INDIA brand as the prestigious and premium brand in textiles and clothing Industry at global level.

Way Forward

The achievements during the last one year in most of the areas have been dramatic and path breaking. The Government demonstrated its sincerity and resolve by taking the process forward by substantially increasing the Plan allocation to the Ministry from Rs. 878 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 1150 crore in 2005-06, which is one of the highest increases given to any sector. The Government would further continue the efforts to make the Indian Textile Industry occupy a pride of place in the Global Textiles.



Details of wall-painting in Cave-I at Ajanta (6th-7th centuries). The spotted bodices seem to be of tie-dyed material.