

CHAPTER-XIV**SC/ST AND WOMEN WELFARE****HANDICRAFT 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 (1) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, (2) Design and Technology Upgradation (3) Marketing Support and Services (4) Export Promotion (5) Research & Development and (6) UNDP Project-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 47.42 % of the total workforce. There are certain

crafts, which are practised predominantly by women like Embroidery, Beadwork, appliqué, durries, shawls, Cane and Bamboo, Artisans 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, Kolkata, Mahila Kalyan Samithi, Pilibhit, SHRUJAN Trust, Bhuj, etc. are being financially assisted to encourage women participation in various crafts activities. During the year 2003-04, the total anticipated outlay for special component plan for scheduled castes, tribal sub-plan and special component plan for women are as under.

Table 14.1**(Rs. in Crores)**

Sl.No.	Name of scheme	Total outlay	TSP	SCP	WSP
1	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana	21.05	3.30	6.60	2.20
2	Design and Technology Upgradation	8.15	1.20	2.40	2.70
3	Marketing Support and Services	14.30	1.60	3.20	1.60
4	Export Promotion	10.00	0.70	1.40	0.75
5	Research and Development	3.10	0.20	0.40	0.30
6	Training & Extension	0.90	0.10	0.20	1.95
7	Bima Yojana for artisans	1.00	0.10	0.20	0.10
8	Special Handicrafts Training Scheme	1.00	0.10	0.20	0.10
	Total	59.50	7.30	14.60	9.70

*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/STs/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.



Women weaver at work

SERICULTURE SECTOR

The sericulture being an agro based and labour intensive cottage and unorganized industry 30-70% workers belongs to SC/STs Categories and over 50% is estimated to be women workers. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Catalytic Development Programme, Central Silk Board is implementing a number of programmes in collaboration with the State Governments under which financial and technical assistance is provided for on-farm activities and post-farm activities like reeling,

dying, twisting, printing, finishing etc. benefits of which accrue inter-alia to SC/ST and women workers.

The Central Silk Board is taking action for enhancement of participation and economic empowerment of women in sericulture and silk industry by a three pronged strategy that aim at developing women friendly infrastructural facilities; imparting training & building capacities; and thirdly improving their access to credit & other facilities by group action, through the formation of Self Help Groups and Quality Clubs.

