CHAPTER XIV

WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND WOMEN
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A. HANDLOOMS

The Handlooms Sector employs over 65 lakh persons in weaving and allied activities with 35 lakh looms. This sector is weaver-specific/occupational in nature, with the majority of weavers belonging to the poorest and the marginalized sections of the society. It is estimated that of the total workforce, women constitute 62.40% and SC/STs category constitute 32% (as per the Joint Census of Handlooms & Powerlooms 1995-96).

For assisting the Handloom Weavers, including SC/ST and women weavers, the Government of India is implementing various developmental Schemes through State Governments with the objectives of (i) Employment Generation, (ii) Modernization and upgradation of technology, (iii) Input support, (iv) marketing support, (v) Publicity & Exhibition, (vi) Infrastructural support, (vii) Welfare measures, (viii) Development of Exportable Products (ix) Research & Development.

Tribal Sub-Plan and Women Component Plan

The various handlooms Schemes operated by the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) are weavers’ profession oriented and not category related in view of the very nature of the activity undertaken in the sector. However, the expenditure budget 2007-08 has earmarked budget for the Women and SC/ST in the schemes at table 14.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Schemes</th>
<th>Total Outlay for 2007-08</th>
<th>Budget earmarked for Women (30%)</th>
<th>Budget earmarked for SC/ST (20%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Integrated Handloom Development Scheme.</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Marketing &amp; Export Promotion Scheme.</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>39.00</td>
<td>26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mill Gate Price Scheme.</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>315.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>94.50</strong></td>
<td><strong>63.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Rs. in crores)
B. HANDICRAFTS

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 Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women artisans. The allocation is 15%, 7.5%, and 10%, respectively. The major schemes being implemented are (1) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, (2) Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme, (3) Marketing Support and Services Schemes, (4) Export Promotion Schemes, (5) Research & Development Schemes. All these schemes play a vital role in the empowerment and upliftment of women artisans and artisans belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Of total workforce engaged in handicrafts, 47.42% are women, of which 37.11% belong to SC/ST category (Source: NCAER Survey, 1995-96). There are certain crafts, which are practiced predominantly by women like embroidery, mat weaving, etc. Special attention is being paid to ensure that a large number of women artisans get benefit of all the developmental schemes, such as training, marketing related programmes, National Awards, exhibitions, etc.

C. SERICULTURE

In India, about 6 million people are involved in Sericulture and its allied industries mostly in rural areas, for their livelihood. Of these, 53% are women, employed in down stream activities of Sericulture, such as mulberry plantation, leaf harvesting, silkworm rearing, etc.

Under the Catalytic Development Programme, programmes such as promotion of women friendly technology packages, supply of improved reeling and twisting devices to women at 50% subsidy, training programmes for women reelers/ spinners, support to women self-help groups, are implemented by CSB.

Two more specific schemes/components for women development namely (i) health insurance for women workers, (ii) creation of toilets, and creches for women in cocoon markets will be implemented during the XIth Five Year Plan with a cost of Rs.3.12 crores.

Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) – Sub Plan

There are no separate programmes/schemes for SCs & STs under Sericulture implemented by Ministry of Textiles. However, during 2007-08, a sum of Rs.16.57 crores (20%) has been earmarked for SCs & STs under relevant components of Catalytic Development Programme.