

**CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**

PRESS RELEASE

15th February, 2017

Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao has instructed officials concerned to initiate all measures for the welfare of the weavers and also formulate an exclusive and comprehensive plan for them. He recalled that a majority of handloom weavers used to be dependent on weaving in the past but to lack of patronage of handlooms some of them left the profession and some unfortunately have ended their lives, as they could not take up any other profession for a living. A majority of the handloom weavers are working as daily wage labourers in the power loom industry now. The Chief Minister wanted a policy and an action plan to bring in light in the lives of these handloom weavers and workers.

On Tuesday, the Chief Minister held a review meeting on Handloom and power loom workers at Pragathi Bhavan here. Chief Advisor to the Government Sri Rajiv Sharma, Principal Secretaries Sri S. Narsing Rao, Ms. Shanti Kumari, Director Ms. Sailaja Ramaiyer, Advisor Sri KV. Ramana Chary, Joint Director Sri Srinivas Reddy, DD Sri Ramgopal and others have attended the review meeting.

“Handloom workers are in a deep crisis and leading miserable lives. Their hereditary profession is not been able to remove their hunger. Unable to sustain on their profession, they are becoming daily wagers. Some of them unfortunately end their lives. The government should come to their rescue with a programme of action. We have to create a market for their products. The government should place orders on them. The handloom weavers should be given bulk orders pertaining to School Uniforms, Uniforms of the police personnel, Clothes required for the hospitals, blankets required for the government hostels and the clothes given to the needy. Adequate work also should be given to the power loom sector. Give subsidy to the yarn. Buy the existing stock. Support those weavers who are in search of an alternative profession. Bring in a comprehensive plan which will instill confidence in them that the government is there to help them,” the CM said.

“Narayanpet, Gadwal and Pochampally are known for their beautiful hand woven silk sarees. These brands have an international market and they should be given support and help. In Hyderabad, in the past, Gollabhama sarees from Siddipet used to be on sale and such specialty brands should be encouraged and their past glory should be restored.

Take proper measures on this. The government is ready to spend any amount of money for the welfare and well being of the weavers and workers. We will also extend help to the power loom sector but it will be mainly on the welfare of the workers,” the CM said.

CPRO to CM