

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS & TEXTILES

From Sri Randhir Singh, M.Com.,
Director of Handlooms & Textiles and
Apparel Export Parks, A.P., (FAC)
Hyderabad.

To
The Secretary to Government, Industries
& Commerce (Tex) Department,
A.P. Secretariat, Hyderabad.

Rc.No.3611/2013-K2, Dt: 27.04.2015

Sir,

Sub: Handloom Industry – Implementation of Health Insurance Scheme
to Handloom Weavers – Reg.

Ref: 1. This office Lr.Rc.No.3611/2013-K2, dt.11.09.2014.
2. This office Lr.Rc.No 8540/2009-K2 dated 08.10.2014.

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I invite kind attention to the captioned subject and references cited.

It is submitted that the Government of India has implemented the Health Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers from the year 2005-06 onwards in collaboration with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited. The implementation of the scheme ended with 30th September, 2014. The Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Government of India has requested to cover the handloom weavers under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana Scheme.

Accordingly, it was proposed to implement the Government of India sponsored **“Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana” (RSBY)** in place of the Health Insurance Scheme for Handloom weavers with 25% State Share and 75% Government of India Share. The Handloom Weavers, Artisans and Powerloom Workers were proposed to be covered under RSBY. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have also conveyed consent for implementation of the Scheme to Government of India. The Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi was also requested to nominate the “Society for Weavers Welfare in Andhra Pradesh” (SWWAP) as State Nodal Agency (S.N.A.) for implementing RSBY in the State for Handloom Weavers. However no reply has been received from Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi. Therefore, the issue has been discussed in the meeting held in the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi to review the implementation of Handloom (R.A.) Act.1985. It was informed that Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is going to extend the implementation of RSBY to all BPL families across the country and that the secretary level talks are being held by the labour and Health & Family Welfare Department of Government of India with the Sate Governments, where the RSBY is not being implemented to extend the Scheme.

As the matter stood thus, on enquiry with the Labour Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh it was informed that the Commissioner of Labour, A.P., Hyderabad has addressed a letter No.F/5599/2014, dt.4.9.2014 to the Principal Secretary to Government, Labour, Employment, Training & Factories Dept., GoAP, Hyderabad (copy enclosed) duly narrating the action taken by the Labour Department for implementation of RSBY to unorganized workers, wherein it is mentioned that Andhra Pradesh, is one of the few States which is not implementing the RSBY. It is also mentioned that RSBY is not implemented in Andhra Pradesh since the issues of integration of Arogya Sree Scheme and RSBY have to be resolved. It is also proposed that Arogya Sree Health Care Trust will implement the integrated scheme without involving the Insurance Company. The Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department will be the State Nodal Agency to implement the scheme since the subject relates to the said department and the Arogya Sree Health Care Trust is also under the control of the said department.

It is further submitted that the Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi vide his D.O.Lr.No.19023/01/2014-RW dated 13.02.2015 has also informed that the Scheme is transferred to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Department of the State Governments concerned and the said Departments should be responsible for the Scheme Operations w.e.f 01st April 2015 and the Ministry of Labour & Employment of the concerned State would be the Nodal Agency for the Scheme Administration.

In this regard, it is submitted that consequent on the discontinuation of H.I.S. w.e.f.30.09.2014, the weavers representatives have been representing for early introduction of RSBY scheme. The Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms has also reviewed the issue and informed that he has also been getting several representations on this issue. He has suggested that since the issue of integration of RSBY with Arogya Sree will take time, the Department shall propose the Health Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers under the State sector.

In this context, I further submit that I have personally discussed the issue with the Commissioner, Medical and Health & Family Welfare Department, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad on 24.04.2015. He has informed that there are some issues which are to be sorted out for integration of RSBY with the Arogya Sree Scheme. He stated that two meetings have already been conducted by the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department Government of India to discuss the issues of integration of **"Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana" (RSBY)** with Arogya Sree and it will take same time to implement the RSBY Scheme in the State. He has also informed that since most of the weavers are under B.P.L. category they are already covered under Arogya Sree Scheme.

In view of the above circumstances, it is requested that the issue of integration of RSBY with Arogya Sree may be taken up with the Principal Secretary to

Government, Medical and Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

It is further submitted that if the integration of RSBY with Arogya Sree is not possible in near future, the Government may consider to implement the Health Insurance scheme for Handloom Weavers under State sector as suggested by the Hon'ble Minister with the same benefits as proposed under RSBY i.e. coverage of In-Patient up to Rs, 30,000/- with Out-Patient facility up to Rs.7,500/-

It is submitted that 1,15,895 weavers were covered under erstwhile Health Insurance scheme for Handloom Weavers. Therefore if the scheme is implemented under State sector there will be additional financial commitment to the extent of RS. 8.70 crores (i.e.1,16,000 X Rs,750/-) per annum approximately.

I therefore request early orders in the matter..

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- Randhir Singh,

Director H&T and AEPS., (FAC)

//Attested//

Assistant Director(H&T)

Copy to the Officer on Special Duty to the Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms with a request to appraise the Minister accordingly.

