

Hon'ble Minister of Textiles inaugurates Handicrafts Productivity Centre and Testing Laboratory

Jaipur; 25th February 2019

Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, inaugurated the Handicrafts Productivity Centre and Testing Laboratory at Jaipur on 25th February 2019, in the presence of Mr. Ramcharan Bohra, Member of Parliament, Jaipur; Mr. Shantmanu, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts); Mr. Ravi K Passi, Vice Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Lekhraj Maheshwari, past Chairman, EPCH; prominent exporters from Jaipur; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPCH; members of CoA, EPCH, press and media.



Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, addresses the audience after inaugurating the Handicrafts Productivity Centre and Testing Laboratory at Jaipur

While inaugurating the Handicrafts Productivity Centre & Testing Laboratory, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani said that this is another feather in the cap for EPCH as, since her becoming Minister of Textiles, she noticed that EPCH has not only kept the momentum of export growth but has also played a vital role in enhancing the quality of handicraft products by handholding artisans, crafts persons and tiny & medium entrepreneurs through infrastructural facilities, machines, design & technology to enable them to produce products as per prevalent international market demands. The efforts of EPCH are not only increasing exports of handicrafts from the country but also adding to foreign exchange earnings, she said. On this occasion, Smt. Smriti Irani announced financial assistance of up to 75% for skill education of the children of artisans and also assistance in their main stream education. She also announced that EPCH should coordinate for the Pension Scheme of Artisans in the unorganised sector in which the Govt. will pay an equal amount as per the recent scheme announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Tool kits were also distributed to artisans.



Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani seen inspecting the Testing Laboratory. She is accompanied by Mr. Ramcharan Bohra, MP from Jaipur; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPCH; and Ms. Rita Nahata, Dean, CHEMS

The Minister of Textiles appreciated the facility and said that the first wooden testing laboratory of Rajasthan will provide the services of more than 135 tests including evaluating structural strength and durability for woodware; moisture test of wood; drop test; transportation vibration test; chair seating impact and durability test; hardness of coating/film; tension, compression force and durability test; and load capacity/impact/ durability test,



Hon'ble Minister of Textiles felicitates Padmashree Awardees from the region : Shri Arjun Parajati; Shri Sayeed Shakir Ali; Shri Ram Kishore Chhipa; and Shri Tilak Gitai

etc. for which exporters had to travel all the way to Delhi and Mumbai. Smt. Irani felicitated Mr. Radhey Shyam Ranga of M/s Latiyal Handicrafts, Jodhpur, for his social work and contribution to handicrafts exports from Jodhpur; and Ms. Ruma Devi, President, Gramin Vikas Chetna Sansthan, Barmer for her creditable feat in organising 22,000 artisans in self-help groups. Prominent exporters and personalities from Jaipur like Mr. Lekhraj Maheshwari, Mr. Dileep Baid, Ms. Leela Boradia, Mr. Ramesh Meena and Mr. Manoj Yadav were also felicitated for their contribution to the sector. The Hon'ble Minister also distributed ID cards, Mudra Loans and RPL Certificates to artisans and crafts persons.

Shri Ramcharan Bohra, Member of Parliament, Jaipur, requested the Minister to sanction a TFC (Trade Facilitation Centre) for Jaipur, on the lines of the one under construction at Jodhpur. Mr. Shantmanu Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) appreciated the contribution of Rajasthan's artisans and also assured that short term courses will be introduced for their skill upgradation.

Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPCH, informed that the objective of Testing Laboratory is to provide an integrated technological up gradation programme, specially designed for the Indian handicrafts industry. The Center shall also work as conduit for technology transfer with the help of experts and other relevant international organisations for providing design and international technical expertise.

A Memorandum of Understanding was entered with Buying Agencies Association of India for ensuring proper testing protocols and recognition of this testing lab.



Hon'ble Minister of Textiles honours Mr. Radhey Shyam Ranga of M/s Latiyal Handicrafts, Jodhpur, for his social work and contribution to handicraft exports from Jodhpur



Hon'ble Minister of Textiles felicitates Ms. Ruma Devi, President, GVCS, Barmer, for her creditable feat in organising 22,000 artisans in self-help groups, in the Barmer region