

Expenditure on each weaver will be ₹5K

The cabinet, probably the last before the dates for ULB elections are announced and the code of conduct sets in, cleared the CM Handloom and Powerloom Industry Development Scheme (General), Jhalkari Bai Kori Handloom and Powerloom Development Scheme and the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Weaver Power Flat Rate Scheme.

Under the CM handloom scheme, which will be in place for five years, beneficiaries will be selected based on the budget availability in 2023-24.

“The aim of this scheme is to provide the latest handlooms and powerlooms to weavers and help them modernise their weaving. Those who are interested in joining the industry will be helped with jobs. The scheme will also help those who are interested in setting up their own



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units,” said a government spokesperson.

He said the latest powerlooms and handlooms will replace the traditional and old looms in place at present. Weavers will also be trained in their usage. They will also be provided with training in new designs, colours and techniques at any government or recognised training centre. The expenditure on

each weaver will be Rs 5,000 which the government will give as grant.

Under the scheme, the government will give a grant of Rs 25,000 or 80% of the cost of a pitloom and Rs 40,000 or 75% of a frameloom. For a powerloom, the government will give a grant of Rs 75,000 or 60% of the cost, Rs 90,000 or 60% of the cost of a semi-automatic powerloom and Rs 30 lakh or 60% of the cost of an automatic powerloom. The remaining cost will have to be borne by the beneficiary through personal means of bank loans.

Jhalkari Bai Kori Handloom and Powerloom Development Scheme for weavers is similar to the CM scheme but is meant for people from the scheduled castes. Under this, those who are running powerlooms or handlooms from their homes will be eligible for the scheme or even those who are working for others but have land of their

own and the ability to bear the cost of purchasing the loom.

Under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Weaver Power Flat Rate Scheme, the government has identified 57,510 weavers with a 0.5 horsepower powerloom and 3,131 with 1 horsepower powerloom at a 5KW connection in rural areas. In urban areas this is 1,76,066 and 14,115 weavers, respectively.

The spokesperson said that those using 0.5 horsepower in urban areas, the cost will be Rs 400 per month while for 1 horsepower users it will be Rs 800 per month. In rural areas, this will be Rs 300 and Rs 600, respectively. For those using a connection of more than 5KW, a charge of Rs 700 per horsepower subject to a maximum of Rs 9,100 will be charged.

The scheme, which kicks in from April 1, 2023, usage of fans and lights should not be more than 10% of the load.