

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

**ABSTRACT**

Industries & Commerce Department – Approval of the Proposal for provision of Free Power upto 200 units per month to Handloom Weaver Households and Free Power up to 500 units per month to Powerloom Units, to implement the assurance of the Government towards safeguarding the interest of the handloom weavers and sectors thereon, duly providing the necessary budgetary support through Energy Department for ease of implementation – Orders – Issued.

**INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE (PROGRAMME – II) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.MS.No. 44**

**Dated: 26-03-2025**

**Read the following:**

- 1) G.O.Rt.No..291, Ind., & Com., (Prog.II) Dept., Dt.25.09.2018.
- 2) G.O.Ms.No..518, Ind., & Com.,(Tex) Dept., Dt.12.10.2001.
- 3) G.O.Rt.No..691, Ind.,& Com., (Tex) Dept., Dt.04.12.2013.
- 4) G.O.Rt.No..31, Energy (Power-III) Dept., Dt.22.02.2024.
- 5) From the Commissioner of Handlooms & Textiles, AP,  
e-file bearing C.No.2717548

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**ORDER:**

In the reference 1<sup>st</sup> read above, Government have issued orders to accord free electricity up to 100 Units per month per connection to Handloom Weavers in the state. In the reference 2<sup>nd</sup> read above, Government issued orders to reduce power tariff for Powerloom units from Rs.1.74 per unit to Rs.0.87 per unit upto 5HP load w.e.f. 01.10.2001. In the reference 3<sup>rd</sup> read above, Government have issued orders for continuation of the 50% Power Subsidy Scheme from 01-04-2010 to 31-03-2012 and also after 01-04-2012 to Powerloom Weavers in the State.

2. In the reference 4<sup>th</sup> read above, the Government have issued orders to reduce the Electricity Duty to 0.06 paise per unit from Rs.1.00 per unit to Power loom weavers to reduce the additional burden to the Power loom Weavers.

3. The Commissioner of Handlooms & Textiles, Andhra Pradesh has informed that the Handloom Sector is the second largest employment provider after agriculture, having approximately 93,000 Handloom Weaver Households and 10,534 Powerloom Units in the State. The Handloom Industry in Andhra Pradesh spread over in almost all districts and each district has its own unique products viz Mangalagiri sarees & dress materials, Dharmavaram silk sarees, Venkatagiri silk & cotton sarees, Uppada Jamdhani sarees, Chirala Kuppadam cotton & silk sarees & dress materials, Kodumuru Gadwal cotton & silk sarees, Madhavaram cotton sarees,

**(P.T.O)**

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Peddapuram silk fabrics, Double Cloth Bed-sheets of Srikakulam and Guntur districts etc. Out of (98) products as "One District One Product" identified by Gol, (34) products are from Handloom Sector, showing its greater significance. The Handloom weaving in the State has historically been a multi-generational profession, deeply rooted in family traditions and cultural heritage. However, this legacy is under significant threat due to increase in overheads such as steep hike in raw material, dyes & chemicals costs etc., adding to the lesser wages compared to other sectors. The Government has increased the monthly pension to handloom weavers from 3,000 per month to 4,000 per month since April 2024, on par with other eligible category of social security benefit scheme, to provide some relief.

4. Keeping the alarming situation into consideration and to implement the assurance of the Government towards safeguarding the interest of the handloom weavers and sectors thereon, the Commissioner of Handlooms & Textiles, Andhra Pradesh has requested to accord permission for providing Free Power upto 200 units per month to about 93,000 Handloom Weaver Households and Free Power up to 500 units per month to about 10,534 Powerloom Units with a financial implication of about Rs.125 Cr per annum and to sanction necessary budget to the Energy Department so as to recoup the cost to the DISCOMS for the seamless execution of the scheme. Further, it is proposed that if consumption of 200 units exceeds by the Handloom Weaver Household and exceeds 500 Units by the Powerloom Unit, the charges will be applicable as per the DISCOMS Rules/Regulations for the exceeded units.

5. After careful examination of the proposal, Government agrees to provide Free Power upto 200 units per month to Handloom Weaver Households and Free Power up to 500 units per month to Powerloom Units, towards safeguarding the interest of the handloom weavers and sectors thereon, duly providing the necessary budgetary support through Energy Department.

6. The Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for effecting the scheme will be issued by the Department in consultation with Energy Department, post approval of the intervention.

7. The Commissioner of Handlooms & Textiles, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh shall take necessary action in the matter.

**(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)**

**N YUVARAJ  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To  
The Commissioner of Handlooms & Textiles, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.  
The Special Chief Secretary to Government, Energy Department.

**Contd...3**

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**Copy to:**

The General Administration (Cabinet) Department, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.  
(w.r.t. the Council Resolution UO.No.83/2025, dt.17.03.2025.)

The P.S. to Spl. Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh.

The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms and Textiles

The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister for Energy Department.

The Accountant General, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

The P.S. to Chief Secretary to Government, Andhra Pradesh.

The P.S. to Principal Finance Secretary, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi.

The P.S. to Secretary to Government, Finance Department

The P.S. to Prl., Secretary to Government, Handlooms & Textiles.

SF/SC.(2717548)

**//FORWARDED BY ORDER//**

*M. S. S. S. S.*  
**SECTION OFFICER**

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# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE POWER SCHEME FOR HANDLOOM WEAVER HOUSEHOLDS AND POWERLOOM UNITS

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## 1. Introduction

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, with the objective of supporting the Handloom Weaver Households and Powerloom Units, has introduced the Free Power Scheme to provide subsidized electricity. The scheme is aimed at reducing the operational costs of individual Weavers, thereby promoting economic sustainability in the traditional weaving sector.

Under this scheme:

- Handloom weaver households are eligible for free electricity up to 200 units per month.
- Powerloom Units are eligible for free electricity up to 500 units per month.
- Any electricity consumption exceeding the specified limit shall be borne by the applicant at the applicable electricity tariff rates.
- This Scheme supersedes all the earlier schemes operative in this regard.

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure the systematic, transparent, and efficient implementation of the scheme.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this SOP is to provide clear and structured guidelines for:

- The identification and verification of eligible beneficiaries.
- The process for availing benefits under the scheme.
- The roles and responsibilities of the implementing Departments.
- The monitoring and grievance redressal mechanism.
- Ensuring transparency and accountability in the execution of the scheme.

## 3. Scope

This SOP shall be applicable to:

- i. Individual Handloom Weaver Households operating Handlooms for livelihood.
- ii. Powerloom Units engaged in weaving activities.
- iii. Officials of the Department of Handlooms & Textiles and Electricity Department involved in scheme implementation, monitoring, and compliance.

## 4. Eligibility Criteria

### 4.1 Beneficiary Eligibility

To avail of the benefits under the scheme, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- a. The applicant must be a permanent resident of Andhra Pradesh.
- b. The applicant must be an individual Weaver engaged in Handloom weaving. In case of Powerloom unit, the applicant must be a Powerloom unit holder engaged

in power operative weaving activity.

- c. The Loom must be operational and used solely for weaving purposes.
- d. The Applicant must possess a valid Weaver Certificate issued by the Department of Handlooms & Textiles, Government of Andhra Pradesh (or) Weaver Pehchan Card issued by the Government of India. In case of Powerloom unit holders, a valid Powerloom Registration Certificate or identification issued by the concerned authority must be submitted.

## **4.2 Required Documents**

The Applicant must submit the following documents for verification:

- a. Aadhaar Card – Proof of identity and residence.
- b. Handloom Weaver Certificate – Issued by the Department of Handlooms & Textiles(or) Weaver Pehchan Card issued by the Government of India.
- c. Powerloom unit Registration Certificate- SSI registration certificate or any other certificate recognising the unit.
- d. Latest Electricity Bill – showing connection details.
- e. Bank Account Details – For verification purposes.
- f. Self-Declaration Form – Certifying that the power connection is used exclusively for weaving purposes.
- g. In case beneficiary is a tenant, he shall submit an indemnity bond from the registered consumer of the premises duly undertaking to the DISCOM to inform any change of activity or occupancy by the tenant so as to make necessary steps for discontinuing the applicable concession.

## **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **5.1 Responsibilities of the Beneficiary (Weaver)**

- Submit a complete and accurate application along with the required documents.
- Adhere to the prescribed unit limit (200 units for Handloom Weaver households, 500 units for Powerloom units).
- Bear the cost of electricity consumption exceeding the sanctioned limit.
- Notify the Authorities in case of any change in eligibility status (e.g., discontinuation of weaving activity, shifting of house in case of rented house).
- Applicants must not have any pending dues or arrears with the DISCOM at the time of enrolment under the scheme.

### **5.2 Responsibilities of the Department of Handlooms & Textiles**

- Verify the eligibility of applicants and maintain a database of approved beneficiaries.
- Facilitate coordination between the Weavers and the Electricity Department for seamless implementation.

### **5.3 Responsibilities of the Electricity Department**

- Process applications for the scheme and verify electricity connection details.
- Ensure the automatic adjustment of the subsidy in the monthly electricity bill of approved beneficiaries.

- Monitor electricity consumption to detect and prevent misuse.
- Address grievances related to eligibility, subsidy adjustments, and beneficiary status.

## **6. Application and Approval Process**

### **Step 1: Submission of Application**

- Eligible applicants shall submit their application along with the required documents at the nearest office of the Assistant Engineer of the concerned section.

### **Step 2: Verification of Documents**

- The officials of the Electricity Department and the District Handlooms & Textiles Office shall jointly verify the documents submitted by the Applicant.

### **Step 3: Approval and Enrollment**

- Upon successful verification, the Applicant shall be enrolled in the scheme.
- The Electricity Department shall ensure that the subsidy amount is directly adjusted in the monthly bill of the beneficiary.

### **Step 4: Implementation and Monitoring**

- The subsidy is automatically applied every month to the electricity bill of the approved beneficiary.

## **7. Monitoring and Compliance**

- The territorial DISCOM officials are authorized to verify the authenticity of the beneficiary at any point during the scheme period. If, upon inspection, it is found that the household is not engaged in weaving activity, the subsidy shall be discontinued.
- The Department of Handlooms & Textiles and the Electricity Department shall jointly conduct annual reviews to assess the effectiveness of the scheme.
- Any misuse or false declaration by the beneficiary shall result in:
  - Immediate disqualification from the scheme.
  - Recovery of subsidized amounts along with penalties as per applicable rules.

## **8. Grievance Redressal Mechanism**

- Any disputes regarding eligibility, subsidy disbursement, or implementation shall be reviewed and resolved by the District Handlooms & Textiles Officer (DHTO) in coordination with the Electricity Department.

## **9. Subsidy Release:**

- DISCOM to submit monthly / quarterly claims to the Energy Dept. along with other concessions / claims for release of funds in accordance with the retail supply tariff order applicable for the relevant financial year. The Energy Department shall arrange to provide budgetary support and release of funds to the DISCOMs from

time to time.

## **10. Conclusion**

The Free Power Scheme for Handloom Weaver Households and Powerloom Units is a welfare initiative of the Government of Andhra Pradesh aimed at supporting the traditional weaving sector by reducing financial burdens on individual weavers and Powerloom Units.

G REKHA RANI I A S  
Commissioner of H&T

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES

From  
Sri T. Janardhanarao, M.Sc., (Ag.),  
District Handlooms and Textiles Officer,  
Srikakulam.  
Mob: 9908018873  
Email: [adhtskl@yahoo.co.in](mailto:adhtskl@yahoo.co.in)  
[dhto.srikakulam.hnt@gmail.com](mailto:dhto.srikakulam.hnt@gmail.com)

To  
The Mandal Parishad Dev. Officers  
concerned,  
The Municipal Commissioners  
concerned,  
The Superintending Engineer,  
APEPDCL, Srikakulam.

Rc.No.42/2025-B, Dt.16.04.2026

Sir/Madam,

Sub: Handlooms and Textiles Department – Free Power Scheme – Provision of Free Power upto 200 units per month to the Handloom Weaver Households and upto 500 units per month to the Powerloom units – Ongoing enumeration and Joint Verification of beneficiaries – Request for deputation of Village/Ward Secretariat staff for Joint inspection along with Electricity Department – Regarding.

- Ref: 1. G.O.Ms.No.44 Industries and Commerce (Prog – II) dept, dated: 26.03.2025.  
2. Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) issued for the implementation of Free Power Scheme to Handloom Weaver Households and Powerloom units.  
3. Chenetha Karmikula Cheta Vidyut Pathaka Namodu Varotsavam from 07.04.2026 to 16.04.2026.  
4. D.O Lr.No.2391/2024-I, dated: 13.04.2026 of Sri R.P. Sisodia, I.A.S., Special Chief Secretary to Government (Handlooms and Textiles) Industries and Commerce Department Govt. of Andhra Pradesh addressed to all District Collectors.  
5. Note Orders of the Collector and District Magistrate, Srikakulam, dt.16.04.2026.

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I invite kind attention to the subject and references cited.

In the reference 4<sup>th</sup> cited, the Special Chief Secretary to Government (Handlooms and Textiles), Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the Government has introduced the Free Power Scheme for Handloom and Powerloom weavers as a flagship welfare initiative. The scheme aims to reduce the cost of production and

improve the livelihoods of weaver households across the State. Under this scheme, free power supply up to 200 units per month to Handloom Weaver households and up to 500 units per month to eligible Powerloom units is being provided with effect from 01.04.2026 as an upfront subsidy, with the benefit reflected directly in the electricity bills.

The timely and accurate identification of eligible beneficiaries is critical, as the processes of enumeration, verification, and flagging of eligible service connections must be completed prior to the generation of electricity bills to ensure seamless extension of benefits. At present, the enumeration process is under progress across all districts.

Further, it has been requested to involve Village/Ward Secretariat staff in the joint verification process along with Electricity Department officials, in view of the limited availability of Handlooms and Textiles Department staff and the dispersed nature of weaving activity across the district.

As per the approved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the following eligibility criteria are to be ensured:

- a) The applicant must be a permanent resident of Andhra Pradesh.
- b) The applicant must be an individual Handloom Weaver engaged in weaving activity; in case of Powerloom units, the applicant must be a registered Powerloom unit holder engaged in powerloom operations.
- c) The loom must be operational and used exclusively for weaving purposes.
- d) The applicant must possess a valid Weaver Certificate issued by the Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Andhra Pradesh, or a Weaver Pehchan Card issued by the Government of India. In case of Powerloom units, a valid Powerloom Registration Certificate or identification issued by the competent authority must be furnished.

It is further informed that the applications collected from Handloom Weavers during the “Varotsavam” programme have already been handed over to the Assistant Engineers of the Electricity Department concerned by the staff of this department.

The Collector and District Magistrate, Srikakulam has accorded approval to the proposal vide reference 5th cited.

In view of the above, the Mandal Parishad Development Officers and Municipal Commissioners concerned in Srikakulam District are hereby requested to instruct the

Village/Ward Secretariat staff under their jurisdiction to participate in the joint verification process along with the officials of the Electricity Department. This is necessitated due to the shortage of staff in the Office of the Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Srikakulam, for verification of applications received from weavers for extending the benefit of free power supply, as per the approved SOP (copy enclosed).

Yours sincerely,

  
District Handlooms and  
Textiles Officer,  
Srikakulam.

Copy submitted to the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Srikakulam for kind information and request to issue necessary instructions to all the MPDO's for necessary cooperation duly involving the Grama/Ward Officials.

Copy submitted to the Commissioner of Handlooms and Textiles, A.P., Amaravati for kind information.

**In Continuation:**

Sub: Handlooms and Textiles Department – Implementation of Free Power Scheme – Provision of free power up to 200 units to Handloom Weavers and 500 units to Powerloom Units – Ongoing enumeration and joint verification of beneficiaries – Request to instruct Village / Ward Secretariat staff to participate in joint verification along with Electricity Department officials – Regarding.

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**Submitted:**

It is humbly submitted that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has introduced the Free Power Scheme for providing free electricity up to 200 units per month to Handloom Weavers and 500 units per month to Powerloom Units w.e.f. 01.04.2026.

**Kind attention is invited to the D.O. Lr. No.2391/2024-I, Dt.13.04.2026 of the Special Chief Secretary to Government (Handlooms and Textiles), Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, addressed to all the District Collectors in the State, wherein it is informed that, as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), it is mandatory to conduct joint verification to establish the genuineness and eligibility of the applications received under the scheme before extending the benefit.**

It is also informed that the enumeration and verification process is presently under progress in the district and applications have been received from various villages of the District. However, as emphasized in the above D.O. letter, due to non-availability of sufficient staff in the Handlooms and Textiles Department and in view of the weaving activity being widely spread across the district, it may be difficult to complete the verification process within the stipulated timelines.

In view of the above, and as instructed by the higher authorities, it is requested the Collector

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and District Magistrate, Srikakulam that necessary instructions may kindly be issued to the Village / Ward Secretariat functionaries under the District Administration and the Superintending Engineer, APEPDCL, Srikakulam to direct their field staff to actively participate in the joint verification process from 16.04.2026 onwards, so as to ensure timely and accurate verification of eligible beneficiaries under the scheme.

This will greatly facilitate smooth and effective implementation of the programme in the district.

**Submitted for kind perusal and necessary orders.**

13/04/2026 08:26 PM  
REJETI SEKHAR  
ASSISTANT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
Note # 6

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Submitted for kind perusal and necessary orders

13/04/2026 08:28 PM  
T JANARDHANARAO  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Note # 7

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16/04/2026 12:11 PM

 Digitally Signed  SWAPNIL DINKAR PUNDKAR I.A.S  
COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE



**D.O. Lr.No.2391 /2024-I, Dated:13/04/2026**

Dear all District Collectors,

Sub: Handlooms & Textiles Department – Free Power Scheme – Provision of free power up to 200 units to Handloom Weavers and 500 units to Powerloom Units – Ongoing enumeration and joint verification of beneficiaries – Request for deputation of Village / Ward Secretariat staff for joint inspection – Reg

- Ref: 1. GO.Ms.No.44, Industries and Commerce (Prog-II) Dept, dated:26.03.2025  
2. Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) issued for the implementation of Free Power Scheme to Handloom Weaver households and Powerloom units  
3. Chenetha Karmikula Uchita Vidyut Pathaka Namodu Varotsavam (చేనేత కార్మికుల ఉచిత విద్యుత్ పథక నమోదు వారోత్సవం) from 07/04/2026 to 16/04/2026.

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It is to inform that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the Free Power Scheme for Handloom and Powerloom Weavers as a flagship welfare initiative, aimed at reducing the cost of production and improving the livelihoods of weaver households across the State.

2) Under the scheme, **free power supply up to 200 units per month to Handloom Weaver households** and up to **500 units per month to eligible Powerloom units is being provided, with effect from 01.04.2026**. The scheme is designed as an upfront subsidy, wherein the benefit is reflected directly in the electricity bills.

3) The timely and accurate identification of eligible beneficiaries is critical, as the enumeration, verification, and flagging of eligible service connections must be completed prior to generation of electricity bills, to ensure that the benefit is extended without delay.

4) Accordingly, enumeration of beneficiaries is presently under progress across all districts, and the Government has prescribed strict timelines for completion of this activity.

5) As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), joint inspection by officials of the Handlooms & Textiles Department and the Electricity Department is

mandatory to establish the genuineness and eligibility of applications before extending the benefit under the scheme.

6) As the 'Varotsavam' programme is coming to an end by 16.04.2026, the process of joint verification has to be taken up by the officials of the Handlooms & Textiles Department and the Electricity Department. This process may also be commenced with immediate effect in areas where enumeration has already been completed, keeping in view that the scheme has been commenced w.e.f. 01.04.2026.

7) Therefore, you are requested to instruct the Village / Ward Secretariat staff to participate in the joint verification along with the officials of the Electricity Department, due to non-availability of sufficient Handlooms & Textiles staff across the district, as the weaving activity is scattered over the district.

Your support in facilitating the joint verification process will be highly appreciated.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



(R. P. SISODIA)

**All District Collectors in the State**  
Government of Andhra Pradesh