

The lead bricks stocked are found to be very essential, day-to-day item for an laboratory engaged in Post Irradiation Examination of nuclear fuels and materials. In case of any break down in the reactor, the entire quantity stocked will be immediately consumed. Keeping in view the existing need for the lead bricks, these items were stocked. The entire stock of lead procured has since been used for setting up of a lead shielded facility for examination of full length pressure tubes received from operating Nuclear Power Stations.

(c) Future requirements of lead materials will be assessed keeping in view the need for sustaining on going programmes and instructions have been issued accordingly.

[*Translation*]

Technical know-how for rural industry

669. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide technical know-how for the development of rural industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNMACHALAM) (a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c): Does not arise.

The development of technology for rural industries as an instrument for improving pro-

ductivity and income of the artisans, is a continuous process and is undertaken by different agencies/organisations engaged in the programme of rural industrialisation. Presently, about 8.7 percent of the total employment is provided by traditional industries, most of which are in rural areas.

Khadi and village Industries Commission and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research have jointly taken up a programme to improve the technology for rural industries. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has carried out "In-house Research" for improvement of the technology and has also sponsored the projects to other research and development organisations. The Appropriate Technology Cell of the Ministry of Industry is also engaged in developing and disseminating the technology for rural industries on a country basis and a number of equipment's have been developed.

National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), through its Prototype Development Centers, is engaged in developing new technologies for both rural and small scale industries. The Coir Board has also developed a number of improved equipment's for modernisation and increasing the productivity of the Coir Industry.

[*English*]

Coir Industry

970. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to modernise the coir industry;

(b) whether any financial assistance has also been given to the private sector to modernise the coir industry; and