

Effect of smoke of factories on Public health

1927. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information regarding damages to the public health due to smoke of the factories;

(b) whether Government have made any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the result thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad is engaged in a composite study of physical assessment of air quality criteria and health effects to the community living in industrial and non-industrial areas.

(c) Results of study are awaited.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Khadi and other village industries' products and Central aid

1928. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of khadi and other village industries' products is declining continuously;

(b) the amount of loan, grant and assistance provided by the Central Government during the last three years to khadi and village industries societies;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large amount of assistance so provided has not been realised; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to raise the produc-

tion and employment opportunities in khadi and village industries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) The Khadi production, in terms of value, has recorded continuous increase except in the year 1975-76. The overall production in village industries also increased from Rs. 122.40 crores in 1973-74 to nearly Rs. 318.07 crores in 1979-80.

(b) and (c). The Central Government provides funds to Khadi and Village Industries Commission and not to individual Khadi and Village Industries Societies. During the last three years the following allocation of funds was made to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission; which in turn, has been given by KVIC to State Khadi and Village Industries Boards, registered institutions and co-operative societies.

Year	(Rs. in Crores)		Total
	Grant	Loan	
1977-78	20.87	23.78	44.65
1978-79	28.09	40.00	68.09
1979-80	34.16	52.00	86.16

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has adequate arrangements for securing the loans advanced by it to these implementing agencies. Loans/amounts falling due, are being realised. For the recovery of un-realised amounts, various measures have been prescribed. Particularly Section 19B of the Khadi and Village Industrial Commission Act, 1956 provides for recovery of loans as arrears of land revenue.

(d) The following steps are proposed to be taken to accelerate and encourage the production and employment in the Khadi and Village Industries sphere:—

(i) Existing and potential artisans are to be identified and their activities diversified.

(ii) The employment base is to be widened by expanding and diversifying the existing programmes and taking up additional programmes in all 5011 development blocks of the country.

(iii) Activities for procurement, storage and processing of raw materials, manufacture and supply of improved tools and equipment, credit, marketing, training etc., are to be promoted and strengthened.

(iv) Setting up of a strong infrastructure for research and development in production and processing technology, product development, diversification of raw materials and processes, designing, improvements in packaging etc. with a view to reduce drudgery of work without reducing employment and improvement in quality of product and increasing the productivity and earning of artisans are to be taken in hand.

(v) Production and supply of improved tools and equipment are to be stepped up.

(vi) More emphasis will be placed on transfer of technology and transmission of higher skills by creating training infrastructure.

(vii) Production centres will be organised in areas where local entrepreneurship is not forthcoming with the long term objective of transferring the centres to the artisans themselves.

(viii) Arrangements will be streamlined for providing critical and scarce raw materials.

(ix) Greater attention will be given to backward areas and deprived sections of society especially the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and increasing the percentage share in numerical and financial terms of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and women in KVI activities by making specific allocations for areas and industries which have preponderance in these target groups.

(x) Adequate provision will be made for providing employment to educated unemployed especially among the sections of marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers by providing training opportunities to them.

(xi) Marketing organisations will be strengthened.

Sugar Quota to Cane Growers

1929. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some of the States the cane growers used to get a quota of sugar directly from the sugar mills to make for the low cane price but this has been done away with as a result of the Central directive to the State Governments to sell sugar at a fixed rate; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to ameliorate the difficulty of the sugarcane growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The Central Government has not been releasing any sugar quota separately for distribution among sugarcane growers. It is, however, possible that factories in some of the States might have been utilising some sugar out of their free-sale quotas for distribution direct to the sugarcane growers.

Under the voluntary price regulation scheme in operation from 1st September to 15th November, 1980, some requests were received for allocation of separate free-sale quota for distribution to cane growers. The State Governments were advised to meet the requirements of sugarcane growers out of the free-sale quotas allotted to them. The voluntary price regulation scheme has since ended with effect from 16-11-80, the