

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5344
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
ENFORCEMENT OF QUALITY STANDARDS
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Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes of the Government for improving quality standard of goods and equipping Small Scale Industries (SSI) with sophisticated testing devices;
- (b) whether the said schemes have helped in promoting the SSI sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a)to(c) The Government has initiated several schemes for the small scale industries to improve the quality standards of goods and make available the sophisticated testing devices. These schemes have helped the SSI Sector in improving the quality of the goods.The details are given below:-

(i) Regional Testing Centres & Field Testing Stations

The Ministry of Small Scale Industries has established four Regional Testing Centres located at New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and seven Field Testing Stations located at Jaipur, Bhopal, Kolhapur, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pondichery and Chengannacherry (Ettumanur).They provide testing and calibration facilities to industries in general and to small scale industries in particular in the disciplines of Chemical, Mechanical, Metallurgical and Electrical Engineering.These Regional Testing centers are accredited by internationally recognized National accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration laboratories

(NABL) certification as per ISO(17025).

In the last two years, 14,746 SSI units have been benefited and 56,701 number of jobs have been tested by these testing centres/stations.

(ii) TESTING CENTRES BY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATIONS

The objectives of the scheme is to promote setting up of testing centres to offer facilities mainly to industrial units including SSI units located in the State for testing the quality of raw materials, components and the end products as per relevant standards specifications.

Under this plan scheme, Government of India provides one time capital grant-in-aid equal to 50% of the cost of testing equipment and machinery upto Rs.50 lakh to the Industries Associations who wish to set up and operate testing laboratories of international standards and also for modernization/expansion of existing Quality Marking Centres (QMC) of State Governments and their autonomous bodies.

In the last two years, 3 QMCs & 8 Test Labs have been approved in principle for central grant-in-aid.

(iii) ISO-9000//14001 Certification Reimbursement Scheme :-

Ministry of Small Scale Industries launched a scheme in the year 1994, exclusively for the SSI units to motivate them to adopt International Quality management Systems(QMS) and Environmental Management Systems (EMS) as per ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 certifications respectively in order to improve their performance and competitiveness. Under this scheme, 75% of the expenditure incurred or Rs.75,000/-(max) that SSIs spend for obtaining certification is reimbursed to them.

Further, the scheme has been enlarged to include Hazard analysis and critical control point certification (HACCP) certification also w. e .f 1-4-2007 subject to maximum reimbursement of Rs 75,000/-. During the last 2 years, 6898 small scale units have been benefited under the scheme and an amount of Rs. 32.31 crore have been reimbursed to them.

(iv) Product Certification Scheme by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) operates a product Certification Scheme under which license is granted to manufactures for use of ISI Mark on the products which comply with the relevant Indian standards. Under this scheme, quality is achieved through compliance to the Indian Standards. Indian Standards are applicable to large scale well as small scale industries with no differentiation.

The product Certification Scheme operated by BIS is primarily voluntary in nature. However, on grounds of health and safety, the Govt. of India has made it mandatory for certain identified products under various statues like PFA Act, BIS Act, EC Act etc., to be manufactured only with certification from BIS. BIS offers concession in the minimum making fee levied by it to the small scale industry @15%. The BIS has issued 3499 licenses to large scale units and 15787 licenses to small scale units as on 31.03.2007. The certification obtained by small scale industries from BIS helps SSI units in marketing their products.