

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3591  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2006  
NABARD SCHEME FOR RURAL ARTISAN  
Pathak Shri Brajesh

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (NABARD) has formulated any scheme for rural artisans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of financial assistance provided to the State under various schemes by NABARD since 2003-04 till date; and
- (d) the number of people benefited under this scheme during the said period, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. NABARD has introduced various schemes for the benefit of rural artisans. The schemes currently in operation are:

- i) Cluster Development Programme
- ii) Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme
- iii) Skill Development Initiatives
- iv) Rural Mart Scheme
- v) Marketing Support
- vi) Swarojgar Credit Card Scheme(SCC)

Out of the above, except Swarojgar Credit Card Scheme, all the other schemes are implemented as grant based and implemented through Non Government Organisations, Training Establishments, Development Organisations, etc. Swarojgar credit Card is a credit product and is being implemented by banks. Under National Programme for Rural Industrialisation(NPRI), NABARD has identified 65 Rural Clusters for development and implementation is in progress in 55 clusters in 17 states and 16000 (approx.) beneficiaries are covered. Further, State-wise list of clusters promoted under NPRI is at Annex.-I.

As on 31st March 2006, Rs. 18.35 lakh has been sanctioned to Self Help Groups for setting up the Rural Marts and Rs.0.84 lakh to NGOs for facilitating for setting up of 19 Rural Marts in 6 States. During 2005-06, a total sum of Rs.2.76 lakh was released supporting 11 Rural Marts in 3 states, viz. Punjab 8s Haryana(9), Orissa(1) and Rajasthan(1).

As on 31st March, 2006, a cumulative amount of Rs.63.60 lakh was sanctioned for supporting 27 rural haats across 12 states. Out of 27 Rural Haats 13 haats have become operational.

The details of implementation of SCC State-wise and bank-wise is at Annex.-II.