

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3540

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF KHADI PRODUCTS

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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes being undertaken by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to improve the quality of khadi products and to diversify into new products for better acceptability and marketability;
- (b) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Government to KVIC to modernise and undertake various projects/studies during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the extent to which these projects/studies are supplementing KVIC in achieving its objectives;
- (d) whether aid has been received from any multinational body including Asian Development Bank and some organizations have been associated by the Government to promote the quality and popularity of KVIC products; and
- (e) if so, the details of the assistance provided by these multinational organizations alongwith the terms and conditions?

Answer

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a): Yes, Sir. With a view to improving quality, developing better designs and improving the packaging of khadi and village industry (KVI) products, the Government has been implementing, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme since 2003-04. The scheme helps khadi institutions in improving raw material, design inputs, dyeing and printing, tailoring and related aspects, packaging, etc. Diversification of product line with the objectives of increasing marketability is also possible under this scheme. Upto 31.03.2008, 418 projects were established under PRODIP exclusively for Khadi sector.

Other steps taken by the KVIC for improvement of quality of khadi products include the following:

- (i) A scheme for sanctioning in-house testing facilities has been launched. So far 35 such laboratories have been sanctioned, out of which 10 have already started functioning and the remaining 25 are in various stages of operationalisation
- (ii) KVIC has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Textiles Committee, a statutory autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Textiles under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963, under which the Textiles Committee has agreed to make available their laboratory infrastructure for checking quality of khadi cloth. Interfaces were also established with reputed Research and Development (R&D) institutes to extend results of their R&D efforts to KVI units.
- (iii) Technical manual, specifications and norms for test quality parameters of Khadi have been devised and published in a booklet form with the assistance of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. The technical manual prescribes the procedure to be adopted while checking samples of raw material, sliver, yarn, fabric etc. used in the production of Khadi, which is expected to ensure the quality of Khadi products.
- (iv) KVIC has set up 6 sliver plants in different parts of the country to ensure supply of quality sliver to the khadi institutions.
- (v) The Government has set up the 'Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialisation (MGIRI)' at Wardha, Maharashtra after the erstwhile Jannalal Bajaj Central Research Institute, was rechristened as MGIRI with the objective to provide high quality scientific, technological and management inputs to strengthen rural industrialization and to enhance opportunities of meaningful and productive employment in rural areas in the khadi and village industries (KVI) sectors.
- (vi) MGIRI in tie-up with IIT, New Delhi has developed a Natural Dyeing process technology for dyeing Khadi fabrics by using locally available natural dyeing raw material, thus producing better quality and eco-friendly khadi.
- (vii) A model of 'Mercerization' machine has also been developed by MGIRI, which will bring qualitative improvement in khadi cloth by bringing uniformity in its texture. This process improves dimensional stability of khadi fabric, thus reducing customers' complaints about shrinkage and also improves colour absorption capacity of cloth.

(viii) A semi automatic loom, in collaboration with IIT, Guwahati has been developed for the benefit of weavers from North Eastern region and West Bengal, which helps reduce drudgery of artisans engaged in Khadi weaving activities.

(ix) Electronic Charkha (e-Charkha) has been developed which has the potential for energy conservation but also generation of power to light up the workshop / Home, listening to transistor, etc., while spinning. Such e-charkhas are available in single, 2 spindle and 8 spindle models. This is also expected to bring uniformity in the yarn, thereby improving the quality and marketability of the products.

(b): KVIC meets its funds requirement for quality improvement of khadi from the budget support provided by Government. The funds provided to KVIC under S & T (Khadi) purpose during the last 3 years and allocation made for the current financial year are given below:

Year Funds provided by KVIC under S & T Khadi
(Rs. in crore)

2005-06 1.35

2006-07 1.50

2007-08 1.85

2008-09 (Allocation) 2.00

(c): There has been positive impact of the PRODIP scheme on production and sales of the assisted institutions.

(d) & (e): No, Sir. KVIC has not yet received any funds from any multilateral body for promotion of quality and popularity of khadi though a proposal of Asian Development Bank (ADB) is under active consideration in Government.