

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1967
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AGRO SECTOR
Borkataky Shri Narayan Chandra

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a): whether the Government has earmarked investment for Research and Development in Agro Sector;
- (b): if so, the details thereof; and
- (c): the steps taken for development of rural technologies?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Government has provided grants of Rs. 11.44 crore to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Rs. 13.50 crore to the Coir Board during the Tenth Plan period (upto 2004-05) for research and development activities in the agro sector, including coir.

(c): For development of new and upgradation of existing rural technologies in thirteen village industry sectors, the KVIC has entered into technical agreements with national level technology institutes like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), National Institute of Technology (NIT), etc. In addition, the Khadi Gramodyog Prayog Samiti, Ahmedabad, an institution which is registered with the KVIC, develops tools and implements and improved technologies for adoption by khadi institutions and artisans. Similarly, the Coir Board is engaged in modernization of technologies relating to fibre extraction, spinning, product manufacturing, etc., as part of its research and development activities. Towards modernization of the coir sector, the traditional ratt has been motorized, leading to improved productivity, quality improvement and enhancement of wages of the coir spinners. The Coir Board has also developed a mild steel compact handloom, called `Anugraha` for women to weave mattings/geotextiles. Conversion of coir pith into organic manure, using `pith plus` is another technology, which has been popularized in the rural areas through field demonstrations.