

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1819
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2009
RURAL BUSINESS HUBS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched Rural Business Hubs (RBHs) Scheme in various parts of the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of villages and villagers benefited under the scheme, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to all parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINSITER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ(Dr. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has launched a Central Sector Scheme on Rural Business Hub (RBH). The Scheme is intended to extend part funding to viable business activities in rural areas. RBHs are required to be based on local resources/skills. Presence of a business partner willing to provide market linkages to the products and involvement of Panchayats are other requirements of RBHs. Assistance under the Scheme is available for engaging professional facilitators who will help in identifying viable business activity and willing business partner, prepare project documents acceptable to the stakeholders and also help in implementation of the project. Scheme also extends part funding for training/skill building of artisans, setting up of common facilities, minor equipment etc. Since 2007-08, the Scheme has an annual allocation of Rs. 2 crore.

Till 31.03.2009, financial assistance has been sanctioned to 42 projects across 15 states, including 3 in Tamil Nadu. Details are provided in the Annexure.

(c), (d) & (e): At present the Scheme is operational in all the districts of the North Eastern States and in all the districts covered under Backward Regions Grant Fund Scheme. There is no proposal to extend the Scheme to all parts of the country in view of the limited availability of funds.