

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2197
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
SCHEMES FOR COIR WORKER
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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Union Government has launched any schemes for the workers in Coir Industries in the country including Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the extent of benefits accrued as a result of such schemes;
- (d) whether any new Centrally Sponsored Scheme is also proposed to be initiated for coir industry/workers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (c) Coir Board, a statutory body under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), is implementing a number of schemes for the over all development of coir industry and up-liftment of the living conditions of the workers engaged in the traditional industry in the country including Kerala as per details given below.

I. Rejuvenation, Modernization and Technology Upgradation of the Coir Industry (REMOT)

A new Central Sector scheme on 'Rejuvenation, Modernization and Technology Upgradation of the Coir Industry' (REMOT) has been launched in March, 2008 to assist spinners and tiny household sector. Under this scheme, assistance is provided to groups of spinners and tiny sector workers for replacement of outdated ratts/looms and for constructing worksheds so as to increase production and earnings of such workers. The scheme envisages to cover 4000 spinning units and 3200 tiny/house hold units during the XI plan period, in country including Kerala.

II. Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI).

The scheme titled "Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)" has been launched in October 2005 with a view to developing around 100 clusters in khadi, village and coir industry sectors over a period of five years to make these industries more productive and competitive to increase the employment opportunities in rural areas of the country. The scheme envisages need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc. 26 coir clusters have been approved from the coir producing States for their development under SFURTI.

III. Skill Upgradation and Quality Improvement Programme including Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY)

The Coir Board imparts training in processing of coir to artisans and workers engaged in the coir industry through its training centres. The Board is also undertaking field training activities for the benefit of coir workers who cannot reach the training centres of the Board for attending the regular training programmes. Further, the Board has been organizing Quality Improvement Programmes on fibre extraction, spinning, dyeing etc. at production centres.

Mahila Coir Yojana is a women oriented self employment scheme being implemented by the Coir Board. The scheme envisages distribution of motorized ratts/motorized traditional ratts to trained women artisan. Subsidy is provided @ 75% of the cost of motorized ratts and motorized traditional ratts subject to maximum ceiling of Rs.2,965/- and Rs.7,500/- respectively. Under the scheme 5367 coir workers were trained and 3009 ratts were distributed during 2008-2009.

IV. Coir Board Group Personal Accident Insurance scheme for Coir Workers

The Coir Board has been implementing the Coir Board Coir Workers' Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for the benefit of coir workers in the country. During X Plan 103 insurance claims were settled and a compensation of Rs.28.79 lakh was paid to the beneficiaries under the scheme.

V. Science and Technology

Through research and development efforts, a metallic handloom 'Anugraha' and pneumatic power loom 'Anupam' have been developed to help in reducing the drudgery of coir workers.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.