

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:672
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
Banerjee Shri Ambica

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

- (a) the total number of Agro and Rural Industries functioning in West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Union Government is planning to set up and develop more Agro and Rural Industries in the States during the current financial year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the funds allocated to such industries in the Country including West Bengal by the Union Government during the last five years and the current year, year-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government for development of Agro and Rural based industries in the country particularly in West Bengal?

Answer

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH)

(a): As per data maintained by Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC), 1.09 lakh khadi and village industries units under agro and rural industries are functioning in West Bengal as on 31.03.2011.

(b)to(d): Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a major credit-linked subsidy programme being implemented by this Ministry aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth in the country including in West Bengal. General category beneficiaries can avail of margin money subsidy of 25 % of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to special categories such as scheduled caste/scheduled tribe /women the margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. The maximum cost of projects is Rs. 25 lakh in the manufacturing sector and Rs. 10 lakh in the service sector. State/UTs-wise releases of margin money subsidy under PMEGP including in West Bengal since inception in 2008-09 to 2011-12 (upto 29.02.2012) is given at Annex I.

(e): Apart from PMEGP, schemes implemented by KVIC for the development of agro and rural based industries include (i) Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) (ii) Product Development, Design Intervention & Packaging (PRODIP) and(iii) Market Development Assistance (MDA).