

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6956
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
MANUFACTURING FROM RAW MATERIAL
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to manufacture products from raw material available in rural areas with the aim of exploiting the potential to make exports so that rural people get employment and the economy of rural areas may be improved;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with any agency/organization to export products from rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage rural people at panchayati level to improve their economy and the number of places where improvement has been noticed at panchayati level in States including Rajasthan?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) & (b): No Sir. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is, however, implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Rural Business Hubs based on the principle of Public Private Panchayat Partnership to utilize the raw materials/skills available in the rural areas for providing sustainable employment opportunities to rural artisans through larger market access in domestic and export markets. Setting up of Rural Business Hubs is primarily done through convergence of resources from various ongoing schemes. Assistance under the scheme is provided by this Ministry for professional support services, training/skill development and for purchase of minor equipment.

(c)&(d): Under the scheme of RBH, 273 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) have been signed with members of industry, Central/State supported agencies like PSUs, Promotional Organisations, large Cooperatives etc. who are the Implementing Agencies, for implementation of 72 projects in different States.

(e): MoPR is also implementing the scheme of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) under which untied grants are provided to the 250 identified backward districts for filling up infrastructural gaps at local level. The guidelines of the Programme entrust central role in planning and implementation of the programme to Panchayats in rural areas and municipalities in urban areas. As per an evaluation of the programme done by the World Bank in 2009, the projects undertaken under the programme are generally addressing local needs within core local government mandates in a relatively cost effective manner.