

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:720
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
NABARD ASSISTANCE TO STATES
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has formulated/proposes to formulate any schemes for rural artisans of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Delhi;
- (c) the details of the financial assistance provided by the NABARD for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise, scheme-wise; and
- (d) the number of artisans benefited therefrom during the aforesaid period State/ UT-wise?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Namo Narain Meena)

(a) to (d):- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD) has several Schemes for the benefit of rural population, including rural artisans.

These include creation of Rural Innovation Fund(RIF), initiating Cluster Development Programme, formulation of special credit card scheme i.e. Swarojgar Credit Card(SCC) Scheme, supporting Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programmes(REDP) and Skill Development Programmes (SDP), strengthening of Rural Haats, and creation of marketing opportunities for unorganized rural producers, especially artisans.

NABARD has sanctioned 120 clusters in different States. Details attached as Annex I.

The cumulative number of Swarojgar Credit Cards, as on 31.3.2012, issued since inception was 13.06 lakhs involving credit limits of Rs. 5445.32 crore. The progress of last three years is attached as Annex II.

As on 31.3.2012, under REDP, SDP cumulatively, around 6.93 lakh unemployed rural youth, including artisans have been covered with financial support of Rs. 96.45 crore. Progress of last three years is attached as Annex III.

Under Rural Haats, as on 31.3.2012, cumulative grant assistance of Rs. 16.90 crore has been sanctioned for 383 Rural Haats across 23 States. Progress of last three years is attached as Annex IV.