

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1666
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
CSIR S FOCUS ON RURAL AREAS AND SMALL TOWNS
Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is turning its attention to rural areas and small towns by informing them how they would be benefited from technologies; and

(b) if so, the details of rural areas and small towns in Punjab that figure in its list?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) Yes Madam. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) provides the S&T needed for the masses. CSIR has been promoting employment generation in rural areas through deployment of technologies. Also it has focused on improvement in quality of life of rural masses. The technologies include: Affordable housing (materials and technologies), Essential oil (agrotechnologies and extraction plants), Ceramic membrane based removal of arsenic and iron from contaminated ground water, Pesticide removal for producing potable water free from organic pollutants, Reverse Osmosis based desalination plants for villages, lead free Jaipur pottery, Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) for Kettuvallam etc. CSIR has catalyzed commercial cultivation of Geranium in Uttaranchal through community participation and Lavender in Jammu & Kashmir. The farmers have been trained not only for cultivation of Geranium and Lavender but also for extraction of oil from the grass. CSIR efforts through development of niche Mentha varieties and their propagation for mass cultivation are noteworthy. The efforts have led India acquire a leadership position in Menthol mint oil production and export. CSIR has partnered with the National Innovation Council (NInC) to provide S&T interventions needed for enhancing the technological base of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Six clusters for the purpose have been adopted. They include:(i) Mango Cluster (Krsihnagiri); (ii) Brass Cluster (Moradabad); (iii) Bamboo Cluster (Agartala);(iv) Auto Cluster (Faridabad); (v) Ayurveda Cluster (Thrissur); and (vi) Life Sciences Cluster (Ahmedabad).

(b) In many rural areas and small towns of Punjab CSIR technologies have been in use. In the recent past training and awareness programs have been conducted for farmers of Punjab on commercially important cut flower crops and low cost poly-housing technology in Gurdaspur, Sama, Pathankot, Dinanagar villages of Gurdaspur district, Phuglana, Gill, Harmoe, Randhava, Rampur Billron, Dhakk, Babak, Mukhlana, Pandori Bana, Khadialar, Bulhowl, Garhshankar, Takhni, Namolihar, Talwara, Bhumga, Kantial, Bhilhowal, Batala, villages of Hoshiyarpur district, Rupnagar area of Rupnagar district and Taran Taran area, Shiekh, Pandori villages of Taran Taran district. Technology for better recovery and utilization of fallen animal carcasses has been provided to leather artisans of Alowal village of Gurdaspur district. CSIR conducted training programs for rural women in football stitching/ non-leather bag making at 10 centers of Gurdaspur District namely ITI Gurdaspur, Dorangla block, Bamiyal block, Fatehpur village (Narot Jaimal singh block), Kalanaur block, Nangal Bhoor village, Dorang Khad village (Dhar Kalan block), Behrampur, Dhariwal and Dera Baba Nanak.