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title: Need to address the problems faced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MEME) sector is often referred to as the backbone of the economy but this sector faces immense challenges when it comes to financial assistance. Finance is not only required to start a business but also for sustenance, diversification, modernization as well as expansion and the lack of which can severely hamper growth of the sector. Small business is known to be the engine of growth across the world. In India, this sector contributes 8% to GDP, 45% to the manufacturing output and accounts for 40% of export. Unfortunately, MSME units very often face major challenges in getting security loans. Other key issues plaguing this sector are the dearth of skilled labor, outdated technology, lack of innovation, inadequate infrastructure, absence of proper marketing and procurement services and lack of proper training and guidance among others. Banks are wary of granting loan due to high risk perception associated with the sector. However, a scheme is only as good as its implementation. If policy expectations are great, expectations from delivery mechanisms are even more so. I, therefore, urge the Government to take remedial steps to address the issues plaguing the sector.