

Special assistance to wool Cottage Industry in famine affected areas in Rajasthan

*185. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of spinning and weaving of wool is being carried on in rural areas of desert districts of Rajasthan by Central Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Khadi Gramin Udyog, Rajasthan and other voluntary Khadi organisations;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give any special assistance to these organisations in desert areas keeping in view the gravity of famine situation there; and

(c) if so, when and in what way ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Considering the hardships faced by the artisans in the drought affected areas of Rajasthan, KVIC undertook special programmes and sanctioned Rs. 1.50 crores during 1985-86 as a special case. A proposal seeking financial assistance for the famine affected areas has recently been received from State Director, KVIC, Jaipur and is under consideration. Apart from the above, release of funds under normal programmes has been speeded up.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the desert areas of Rajasthan face famine conditions during most of the years. There is plenty of sheep and wool in this area. At least, 40 per cent of the total production of wool in the country comes from here. A permanent solution to the problem of famine could be found by providing spinning and knitting opportunities there. A str-

ucture, which has been established recently in order to develop the cottage industries and to set up centres for spinning and knitting in all the villages under the Khadi Commission and the Rajasthan Khadi Gram Udyog Board, is on a very small scale. I want to know whether in order to provide a permanent solution to the problem of famine, the Central Government would set up an appropriate structure and by making more resources available in every village, the Government would shoulder the responsibility of developing this spinning and knitting industry ?

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : The KVIC does not have any special programme except for this particular region, namely Barmer district and Bikaner region of Rajasthan. These two areas were affected by drought and as a special scheme the KVIC last year gave Rs. 1.5 crores. This is a special scheme and this year also the State of Rajasthan KVIC requested further enlarging the scope of this assistance given last year.

The matter is under consideration of the Government. The KVIC in actual effect does not have a special scheme. Therefore, for the hardship faced by the artisans in several parts of the drought affected areas we will do all we can. We will be taking a decision in this regard by the end of March.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this industry can provide employment to lakhs of people during famine and in this way, crores of rupees which are spent for relief work could be saved. The production of blankets and cloth produced in those areas could be encouraged and their designs could be changed and these could be even exported. In such a situation, why does not the Khadi Commission formulate a permanent scheme for providing a lasting solution to this problem ?

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, I can understand the concern expressed by the honourable Member because he happens to be from Barmer region where the drought affected people are there. Last year itself 50,000 were given employment as a result of the special assistance. We expect that this year also the Government will be taking a conscious decision on this. If the Government decides that it should be extended this year the same number of persons again would be benefited.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : We want some permanent arrangement and that is why we are making this submission.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

*"Sabki nazaren saki par hon yeh to zaruri hai
Saki ki nazar hum par ho yeh zaruri to nahin."*

Out of the 204 drought affected districts of Rajasthan, 196 districts are facing famine conditions. According to the 1981 census, 270 lakh acres of area is facing severe famine. You might be aware that Jhunjhunu and Sikar are important areas and in Sikar there is a place called Fathepur where there is a sheep-rearing farm. Will you make provision to encourage such industries in Jhunjhunu and Sikar or not?

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : I would need a separate question.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We would ask him to give the notice again.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAS VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he had asked the question about the whole of Rajasthan which includes Jhunjhunu, Sikar and other districts

as well. Hence the hon. Minister should reply as to what arrangements would be made for those areas.

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the desert areas of Gujarat have been facing famine conditions for the last three years. There is great demand among the rural women there for spinning and knitting work so that they could earn their daily bread. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether a special scheme would be formulated for this purpose and special grants given for its implementation?

MR. SPEAKER : From Rajasthan you have reached Gujarat.

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : We know that there are two States which are facing drought—Rajasthan and Gujarat and there are various schemes of the Central Government to look forward to...

MR. SPEAKER : And Maharashtra also.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : KVIC has asked for a special scheme and we will see, as I said, a decision on this will be taken as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir the wool that is obtained from the sheep, which are reared in Rajasthan is perhaps of the best variety in India and is of export quality. We get superior quality of wool from here and the economy in the rural areas of Western and Southern Rajasthan is pastoral even today. In order to develop pastoral-economy, it is essential that the wool production in these areas is encouraged and for this purpose a scheme at the national level should be formulated for processing and purchase of wool. It is an area which must be kept populated from the strategic point of view and for this purpose, it is essential to provide employment to these people there

itself. Keeping this point in view, it is essential to formulate a separate plan and consider it separately. Is it under your consideration? The Khadi Gram Udyog Scheme would not benefit much. Hence, is a separate project at the national level being considered because it is an important area from the strategic point of view?

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH :
The suggestion is welcome. I can pass it on to my colleague, Shri Arunachalam.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRAWA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, a sheep and wool research institute is located at Avikanagar where good work is being done in the field of wool research for the last 25 years. I want to know whether the Government can provide figures in regard to the total production of wool in Rajasthan? Since the establishment of this institute, the wool produced is of very superior quality. I want to know as to how much is the production of the old variety of wool and how much is that of the new variety? What is the policy of the Government in regard to the establishment of wool based industries there and how many people can be employed in the wool based industries?

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH :
These figures are not available with me. The question that has been asked relates to the work being carried out in drought affected areas by Khadi and Village Industries Commission etc. Therefore, I will need a separate notice for this,

PROF. N. G RANGA : Do you have any information at all about Rajasthan?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH :
I have, but not here.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation plan for Indian drugs and pharmaceuticals limited

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*188. **SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :**
DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited has been suffering losses for the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any rehabilitation plan has been prepared for the various units of the company to save it from closure;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The losses are due to various factors including under-utilisation of installed capacity, excess man power, technological problems, higher cost of production from basic stage and product mix predominantly comprising of essential drugs having a lower mark up.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) A statement is given below.

(e) The company is implementing such aspects of the rehabilitation plan as can be done at its level.

Statement

1. **Manpower :**