

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3647
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2003
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
ANANTA NAYAK;PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large number of Agro and Rural Industries set up in Ninth Plan have fallen sick;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any effort is being made for the revival of these units; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANDESH CHANDRA BHAIYA GAUTAM)

(a) to (d): The Information on sick Agro and Rural Industries is not maintained centrally. While the development of Agro and Rural Industries is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Union Government has taken several steps to improve their performance. These include providing margin money assistance to new units in the village industries under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), and the training, technological and marketing support. In order to further strengthen this sector in the country, the Government on 14.05.2001 has announced the `Khadi Package`. The Package mainly consists of creation of packaging and designs facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, provision of additional working capital etc.

As a result, village industries have registered growth in production and employment. The value of production in this sector has increased from Rs. 7140.52 crores during 2001-02 to Rs. 7932.39 crores (provisional) during 2002-03 and the employment has also registered an upward trend from 54.16 lakhs job opportunities during 2001-02 to 57.87 lakhs (provisional) job opportunities during 2002-03.