

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1934  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2001  
SCHEME FOR RURAL ARTISANS  
RAJO SINGH

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has planned to launch a new scheme for rural artisans and scheduled tribes of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the assistance provided to the State during the last three years under various schemes by this bank; and
- (c) the number of beneficiaries in Bihar benefited during the aforesaid period under these schemes?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recently decided to adopt artisan clusters for development for providing focussed and demand based assistance to specific rural industrial clusters. In the first phase of the cluster development programme, NABARD has identified 15 rural clusters, of which 'Leather Cluster in Bihar Sharif in Nalanda District of Bihar' is included. In the second phase, a cluster of Madhubani painting in Madhubani District is proposed for inclusion.

(b) & (c): The assistance provided by NABARD to Bihar State during the last three years for the above purposes is given below:

i. Refinance provided by NABARD to co-operative banks and Regional lending to artisans in Bihar for the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Cooperatives		Regional Rural Banks	
	Limit	Maximum	Limit	Maximum
	Sanctioned	Outstanding	Sanctioned	Outstanding
1997-98	0.51	0.46	2.50	2.5
1998-99	NIL	0.46	3.25	2.7
1999-2000	NIL	NIL	3.54	3.03

ii. Refinance provided by NABARD to co-operative banks for lending to tribals for raising crops in Bihar for the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Limit	Sanctioned	Maximum	Outstanding
1997-98	3.00	3.45		
1998-99	3.75	4.13		
1999-2000	NIL	4.13		

iii. Refinance assistance provided by NABARD to various non-farm sector activities under different schemes of NABARD and number of units assisted during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of Units covered	Refinance Disbursed (Rs. Crore)
1997-98	4877	20.27
1998-99	1369	18.54
1999-2000	1604	20.42

