

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5963
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
RURAL EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) till date;
- (b) whether the Government has estimated the total number of employment given to unemployed during the last two years;
- (c) if so, the number of projects funded by the Government during the year 2004-05 under the REGP;
- (d) the total percentage of SCs/STs/OBCs benefited by the said projects; and
- (e) their total percentage share in employment under the REGP?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

- (a): The Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to create employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns with population up to 20,000. The steps initiated by the Government through the KVIC for better performance under the REGP include authorization of banks to take credit decision in order to ensure hassle free credit flow, communication of State-wise targets under the REGP well in advance, earmarking of funds for backward-forward linkages, viz., conducting Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs), exhibitions, workshops, awareness camps, etc. In addition, the KVIC has opened 49 Rural Industries Consultancy Service (RICS) Cells to guide the entrepreneurs in setting up village industry units under the REGP.
- (b): Under REGP, 3.61 lakh and 4.71 lakh employment opportunities have been created during 2002-03 and 2003-04, respectively.
- (c)to(e): The final figures of category-wise number of units set up and employment generated under the REGP during 2004-05 are not yet available.