

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2521
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006
POTENTIAL OF AGRO INDUSTRIES
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

- (a): whether the Union Government has made an assessment of the potential of agro industries in the country particularly West Bengal and Karnataka;
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): the extent to which this potential is being exploited; and
- (d): the steps taken by the Union Government to develop the marketing facilities in these States for large scale development of agro industries?

Answer

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

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): To develop and promote village industries, including agro industries, in the rural areas of the country, including West Bengal and Karnataka, Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Under the REGP, village industries are set up based on project proposals prepared by the applicant-entrepreneurs, for which technical assistance is provided to them by the KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs). As such, separate assessment of the potential of agro industries in a State is not conducted under this programme. 904 and 326 agro and food processing village industry (VI) units have been established during 2004-05 in West Bengal and Karnataka respectively, under the REGP.

(d): To promote the marketing of VI products, including those based on agro industries, 198 and 346 sales outlets managed by the KVIC - assisted institutions are functioning in the State of West Bengal and Karnataka respectively, besides one KVIC-owned sales outlet each in both these States. In addition, KVIC organizes exhibitions at the national and sub-national levels to help the marketing of such products.