

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1939
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006
SELF- HELP GROUP
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

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

- (a): whether the Government is implementing a programme to develop and empower the rural women by providing assistance to the rural self-help groups so that they can get involved in various rural industries;+
- (b): if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise; and
- (c): the total amount of assistance provided during each of the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): The Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), throughout the country, to provide employment opportunities by assisting individual entrepreneurs/self help groups, including women, in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under the REGP, women entrepreneurs are entitled to a higher rate of margin money assistance at the rate of 30 per cent as compared to 25 per cent for the male entrepreneurs in the general category. Under REGP, self-help groups (SHGs) have also been similarly assisted, with effect from 01 April 2002. This programme is demand-driven and the number of SHGs benefited varies accordingly.

KVIC also provides

- (i) marketing support to such SHGs by way of assistance for participation in exhibitions and sale of products, and
(ii) training through its network of training centres to such SHGs.