

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3487  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2006  
GRAMIN VYAPAR KENDRAS  
Saroj Shri Daroga Prasad

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) The details of the Gramin Vyapar Kendras being run in each State, location-wise ;
- (b) The targets and objectives of these Vyapar Kendras ;
- (c) The source of finance of these Kendras ;
- (d) The details of the governing bodies constituted for this purpose ;
- (e) Whether this scheme is likely to be extended to some other States; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be extended ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) Gramin Vyapar Kendras/Rural Business Hubs (RBH) is an initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj. As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the details of Gramin Vyapar Kendras or Rural Business Hubs

(RBHs) MoUs signed in various States location-wise is given in Annexure.

(b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) are working together to facilitate building linkages between Panchayats, industries and business to create these Vyapar Kendras in different blocks of the country. They are proposed to be Public-Private-Panchayat Partnerships which will help to produce/improve/refine goods from locally available resources and enable them to reach larger markets.

(c) Gramin Vyapar Kendras/RBH is not a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and has no direct funding either from the State or from Central Government. It is proposed that Panchayats will converge Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Government Schemes for RBH in rural areas, wherever Panchayats are in place. The financing of Rural Business Hubs is envisaged as a business proposition on the public-private-panchayat-partnership principle which would be supported by such `top-up` funds as may be available for the purpose. Assistance is also envisaged from specialized institutions like NABARD, KVIC etc.

(d) An RBH Council has been set up at the Centre which is co- chaired by Minister, Panchayati Raj and Shri Sunil Kant Munjal, immediate past President of CII, to foster the Kendras. An RBH Executive Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj to assist the RBH Council to chalk out an action plan in accordance with the directions given by the RBH Council. State RBH Councils with State Minister for Panchayati Raj/Secretary, Department of Panchayati Raj and State CII President as Co-chairpersons, have also been set up in many States to facilitate the local Panchayats in setting up RBHs.

(e) & (f) Yes, Sir. It is the proposal of the Government to set up RBHs in all Blocks of the country. However, no specific time frame has been fixed for extending RBH throughout the country.