

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3511  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2007  
COMMERCIAL CENTRES FOR ARTISANS  
Maharia Shri Subhash;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

- (a) the details of the steps being taken to promote rural artisans, craftsmen and weavers;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to set up commercial centres to promote them, particularly those belonging to SC/ST community; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which is a holistic self employment programme for organisation of rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons into Self Help Groups (SHGs), to carry out their training and capacity-building, planning of activity clusters, provision of credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing support for establishing micro enterprises, with a cluster based approach. Rural population living below poverty line who are artisans, craftsmen and weavers can also obtain assistance under this scheme.