

[4 MAY, 2000]

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employed in small scale sector during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were 167.20 lakhs, 171.58 lakhs and 178.50 lakhs-respectively. Estimates regarding the number of labourers engaged in the small scale industrial sector in the country are not maintained.

(c) The percentages of these people out of those working in the entire industrial sector is estimated at 35.45%.

**National Programme for Rural Industrialisation**

4247. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government propose to launch the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has suggested some measures in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government has launched a National Programme for Rural Industrialization (NPRI) in 1999-2000. Under this Programme, 100 rural clusters are to be established every year by dovetailing the existing Government programmes. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has identified 50 such clusters. The KVIC is developing these clusters by creating Common Facility Centres in such clusters. The small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has also selected 25 clusters. The rest have been taken up by the O/o Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(c) to (e) The KVIC has suggested to integrate various schemes for maximum impact at the cluster level and also to create a brand' for the marketing of village industries products. KVIC has been advised to implement the NPRI by dovetailing the existing programmes. Action has also been initiated to create a brand' for the marketing of village industries products.