

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Spurt in prices of pulses

*482. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses have shown a spurt in the recent months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in prices of pulses over the last six months and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that pulses are made available, if possible, through Public Distribution System, to the people at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In Delhi, the wholesale prices of pulses as on 4.8.2009 had registered an increase over the last six months as follows: Gram (4.31%), Masoor (5.36%), Tur dal (47.54%), Moong dal (39.47%), Urad dal (31.08%). The domestic prices of pulses have risen mainly on account of demand supply mismatch. Availability of Tur, Moong and Urad reduced considerably during 2008-09 as compared to the previous year. As per 4th Advance Estimates, the domestic production of pulses declined to 14.66 million tonnes during 2008-09 as compared to 14.76 million tonnes during 2007-08. In addition, hardening of international prices affected imports of pulses, which declined from 2.95 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 2.57 million tonnes in 2008-09.

(c) Government has taken specific measures to improve the domestic availability and ease the price situation with respect to pulses. These measures include, extending import of pulses at zero duty up to 31.3.2010; extending ban on export of pulses (except kabuli chana) up to 31.3.2010 and extending the current dispensation for PSUs to import pulses against reimbursement up to 15% of losses and service charge of 1.2% of cif value up to 31.3.2010. In order to ensure the supply of pulses at reasonable rates to the vulnerable sections of society, Government has initiated a scheme to give subsidy to PSUs @ Rs. 10 per kg to supply imported pulses to state governments for distribution through PDS. This scheme is extended up to 30.9.2009.

Schemes launched in view of unemployment in rural areas

*485. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of large-scale unemployment or under-employment of youth in rural areas, any specific schemes have been launched containing incentives like access to finance or giving preference to purchase of their products;

(b) whether training facilities in organizations like State-run Industrial Training Institutes have adequate rural penetration to avoid wastage of to-and-fro journeys involving significant time and distance factors; and

(c) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has broadly achieved the purpose for which it was set up aiming at optimum utilization of local resources and talent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) formulates policies and programmes and coordinates activities for the development of khadi, village and coir industries. With a view to providing employment in rural as well as urban areas, the Ministry of MSME has been implementing 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP). PMEGP is a credit-linked subsidy scheme launched in August 2008 by merging the erstwhile Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) of this Ministry. It is a significant initiative and is more attractive and useful than both the above schemes. Under this programme, financial assistance is provided to prospective entrepreneurs to set up micro-enterprises costing upto Rs. 10 lakh in service/business sector and Rs. 25 lakh in manufacturing sector in rural and urban areas. The permissible margin money subsidy provided under PMEGP is as under:

Categories of beneficiaries under PMEGP	Beneficiary's Contribution (of project cost)	Rate of Subsidy (of project cost)	
Area (location of project/unit)		Urban	Rural
General Category	10%	15%	25%
Special Category (including SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically handicapped, NER, Hill and Border areas etc.)	05%	25%	35%

PMEGP is implemented through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the single nodal agency at the national level. At the State/Union Territories level, the scheme is being implemented through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards and District Industries Centres (DICs) with involvement of banks. Applications are invited by implementing agencies and are screened by District Level Task Force and recommended to banks for consideration and sanctioning of credit for setting up of the proposed micro-enterprises. The State/UT - wise number of persons estimated to have benefited from employment generated under REGP during 2006-07 and 2007-08, and PMEGP during 2008-09 (provisional figures) are given in the Statement (See below).

358 items have been reserved for purchase by the Central Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertaking from small scale industrial units including units in handicraft sector like cane furniture, bamboo file tray, baskets, pencil-stand, side racks, artistic wooden furniture, jute products, file cover, woolen and silk carpets, etc. Some State Governments/local authorities have also issued guidelines to agencies/offices under their control to extend preference to KVI items while making purchase.

(b) The Government in the Ministry of Labour and Employment through Directorate General of Employment and Training is considering setting up 1500 new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)/Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) and 5000 skill development centers in the country preferably in the un-serviced blocks/difficult and backward areas; including hilly areas, border areas, etc. in Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode so that large unskilled workforce in these areas acquire skills and join mainstream workforce in progressive regions.

Further, KVIC conducts training programmes in various disciplines for supervisors, managers, artisans, orientation and refresher courses for artisans and entrepreneurs, specialized courses for prospective entrepreneurs, etc., through a network of the training centres run by KVIC, KVIB and Institutions/NGOs and accredited training centres which includes peripatetic components for achieving rural penetration.

(c) Through its various programmes and aiming at optimum utilization of local resources and talent, KVIC assists the khadi and village institutions for producing saleable products viz., khadi and khadi cloth, agarbatti, honey, pickles, handmade soap, handmade paper, papad, etc. The details of growth in the value of production and sales of the khadi and village industries sector as well as employment during each of the last three years are given below which indicates that KVIC has broadly achieved the purpose for which it was set up:

Year	Production (Value Rs. crore)		Sales (Value Rs. crore)		Cumulative Employment (Lakh persons)	
	Khadi	V.I.**	Khadi	V.I.**	Khadi	V.I.**
2006-07	491.52	13527.19	663.19	18888.21	8.84	80.08
2007-08	543.39	16134.32	724.39	20819.09	9.16	90.11
2009-09*	565.12	16779.70	854.78	21668.48	9.53	93.78

*Provisional **Estimated

Statement

State/UT-wise number of persons estimated to have benefited through employment generated under REGP during 2006-07 and 2007-08, and PMEGP during 2008-09

(Number of persons)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Estimated employment generated under REGP		Estimated employment generated under PMEGP*
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh	50	199	310
2.	Delhi	267	215	50
3.	Haryana	28339	45185	8210
4.	Himachal Pradesh	17102	26848	3400
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	23274	43865	18210
6.	Punjab	35604	37412	8870
7.	Rajasthan	44168	94468	7030
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	323	273	80
9.	Bihar	12334	20057	67410
10.	Jharkhand	7289	9064	9400
11.	Orissa	16311	21857	19760
12.	West Bengal	42834	120126	56670
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	2106	1783	1300
14.	Assam	30912	48303	7280
15.	Manipur	1881	1105	30
16.	Meghalaya	2174	3509	30
17.	Mizoram	16455	17299	230
18.	Nagaland	3358	6910	310
19.	Tripura	5851	14178	50
20.	Sikkim	2208	2260	40
21.	Andhra Pradesh	59750	98449	9030

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Karnataka	42420	58855	24230
23.	Kerala	30144	48668	3890
24.	Lakshadweep	0	36	40
25.	Puducherry	854	2099	420
26.	Tamil Nadu	25216	54634	14730
27.	Goa	1389	809	70
28.	Gujarat	13520	19271	3070
29.	Daman and Diu	—	—	60
30.	Maharashtra	27182	33266	33680
31.	Chhattisgarh	17719	25933	10780
32.	Madhya Pradesh	22332	42793	6280
33.	Uttarakhand	10962	19270	3780
34.	Uttar Pradesh	51123	56652	44140
TOTAL		595451	975651	362870

*Provisional

Jan Aushadhi Outlets

*486. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Jan Aushadhi Outlets have been opened so far and the details thereof, city-wise;

(b) what are the parameters of identifying the cities, locations and dealers for setting up Jan Aushadhi Outlets;

(c) whether Government has set any annual target for setting up such Outlets; and

(d) what steps have been taken to prevent black-marketing and pilferage from such Outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) At present, 14 Jan Aushadhi Outlets have been opened in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan, as follows:-