

the desirability of continuance of institutions deemed to be universities. The Report of the Review Committee is available at <http://www.education.nic.in/HigherEdu/RepoRevCom-DmdUniv.pdf>. According to the UGC, all its visiting teams physically visited the institutions.

The Review Committee found 44 such institutions unfit, owing to deficiencies, for continuance as institutions deemed to be universities. The issue is *sub judice* in the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Viplav Sharma Vs Union of India and Others [WP(C) 142 of 2006].

Public procurement policy for enterprises

2398. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is introducing public procurement policy for MSMEs in the country in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far;
- (c) the view of the industry and States in this regard; and
- (d) the final decision taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) A proposal for a comprehensive Procurement Policy to benefit the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) is under finalization.

Development of agro-based rural industries

†2399. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to start new schemes for the development of agro based rural industries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Central Government has received proposals from the States including Madhya Pradesh for the development of agro based industries in the States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Although the Government is not proposing any new scheme as such for the development of agro-based rural industries in the country, the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has already been implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), from 2008-09 through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the nodal agency at the national level and through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) at the State/Union Territories level, with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

involvement of banks. Agro-based rural industries units constitute a significant portion of the total number of new units set up under PMEGP.

(c) and (d) Applications for setting up 'micro enterprises' including agro-based rural industries are not received directly by the Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Under PMEGP, eligible entrepreneurs can establish new 'micro enterprises' by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks. For this purpose, proposals are invited from potential entrepreneurs at district level through advertisements in press and other media by KVIC, KVIBs and DICs periodically, depending on the target allocated under PMEGP. The project proposals so received are scrutinized by the District Level Task Force Committees (DTFCs) constituted for the purpose headed by the concerned District Magistrate. Based on the experience, technical qualifications, skill of the applicant, viability of the project, etc., the applicants/project proposals are short-listed and the applicants are called for interview to assess their knowledge about the proposed project, skill and entrepreneurship abilities to make the proposed project successful. Banks take final credit decision, sanction the credit, make disbursal and coordinate entrepreneurship training through accredited institutions.

Declaring 2010 as Coir Year

2400. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the coir industry in Kerala is the largest cottage industry in India providing livelihood to nearly three lakh fifty thousand people directly and many more indirectly and that Government of Kerala has declared 2010 as the Coir Year keeping its importance;

(b) if so, whether Government of Kerala has recommended the Centre to declare the year 2010 as "Coir Year" and take some other measures for rejuvenation of the coir industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala has declared 2010 as "Year for Coir" and it has recommended to the Government of India to declare the year 2010 as "National Year for Coir". It has not been found feasible to declare the year 2010 as 'National Year for Coir' as three months of the current year are already over and action on various issues like preparation of detailed action plan of activities to be undertaken throughout the year in all the concerned States participating in coir activities, details and sources of funding of the said action plan for implementation, and consultation with/consent of all the concerned State Governments for participation in the Events, etc. need to be completed prior to declaration