

(b) There is no proposal in Government of India to create a separate Department exclusively for jatropha development. However, based on the recommendations of the Committee on Development of Bio-fuels which was constituted by Planning Commission in July, 2002, a National Mission on Bio-Diesel with a special emphasis on large scale cultivation of jatropha for bio-diesel production has been envisaged.

(c) National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board under the Ministry of Agriculture has initiated a National Network on Integrated development of Jatropha & Karanj during 2004-05. involving 38 R&D institutions of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) & State Agricultural Universities to address various researchable issues.

(d) National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board is providing financial assistance to various Government Institutions including State Agricultural Universities & State Departments for promotion of tree borne oilseeds (TBOs) including jatropha under a Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" during 10th Plan.

Composition of KVIC

3059. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength and composition of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) the number of posts of directors including Chairman still lying vacant and since when, indicating the reasons therefor;

(c) the incentives Government have given, so far, to encourage and help weavers engaged in the production of khadi; and

(d) the figures of exports and local sales of khadi garments during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise till date?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PARSAD): (a) and (b) Under the relevant provisions of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 (as amended to date), the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) consists of 13 members (6 zonal members including the Chairperson, 4 expert members and 3 ex-officio members). There is no post of director in the Commission. The Chairperson and members of the Commission are in position.

(c) The Central Government provides insurance cover to spinners, weavers and other khadi artisans under the 'Khadi Karigar Janashree Bima Yojana' (JBY). The wards (studying in classes IX to XII and in Industrail Training Institutes) of the khadi artisans covered under JBY are entitled to receive upto Rs. 300 per quarter per ward towards tuition fee under the Shiksha Sahayog Yojana which is an additional benefit under JBY, without additional premium. The Government also assists the khadi institutions in setting up Khadi and Polyvastra Artisans Welfare Fund Trusts (AWFTs) through the KVIC to provide social and financial security to the artisans on the lines of Contributory Provident Fund Schemes. While the khadi artisans contribute 12 per cent of their earnings from the khadi work, the employing institutions contributes 12 per cent of the amount paid by it to the artisans, every month. The artisan can withdraw the amount standing to his credit for specified needs/purposes like self marriage or the marriage of his/her children, medical treatment of self, spouse, children, parents or other dependants, construction of a dwelling house, etc.

In addition, with a view to making the production, sales and marketing of khadi economically viable, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Credit at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum is provided by banks as per the assessed requirement of the institutions registered with the KVIC/ State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme.
- (ii) Provision of funds for payment of rebate on sales of khadi.
- (iii) Assistance for improved design and packaging of khadi garments under the Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme, implemented by the KVIC since 2002-03.
- (iv) Assistance to khadi institutions to participate in exhibitions at the national and sub-national levels, etc., for improving marketing of products.

(d) The details of local sales of khadi garments during each of the last three years are given below:

Year	Sale (Rs. crore)	
	Khadi and khadi products (all varieties)	Ready-to-wear khadi khadi garments
2003-04	587.02	152.02
2004-05	617.84	156.36
2005-06	669.00*	165.99*

As per information available with KVIC, khadi and khadi products worth Rs. 59.05 lakh were exported during 2004-05 to countries detailed below:

Varieties of khadi products exported	Value of Export (Rs. lakh)	Destination Country
Spun silk and muslin khadi	1.42	USA and UK
Silk scarf and stole scalping	18.73	Austria, UK, USA, Germany, Japan and Morocco
Silk sarees	0.42	UK
Darri/carpet	1.90	United Arab Emirates
Khadi cloth	36.58	UK
TOTAL	59.05	

These data do not include exports of khadi products through private channels which do not report the information to KVIC.

Schemes for village artisans

3060. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poor village artisans cannot take the advantage of bank-loans, because they cannot provide security required for such loans;

* provisional figures