

(c) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Rural agro industrial economic policy

3092. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to formulate a rural agro industrial economic policy to lessen the dependence of villages on the towns; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to process the raw-materials in villages in order to make it into finished goods so that the villages and towns become supplementary to each other?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) With a view to creating more employment opportunities in the rural non-farm sector, based on the use of local raw materials and skills, the Government has been promoting agro and rural industries through the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), schemes for development of the khadi and coir sectors, etc. The REGP is being implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and banks in the rural areas and small towns with population up to 20,000. Similarly, PMRY is being implemented through the District Industries Centres (DICs) of the State/Union Territories (UTs) and banks in rural areas as well as urban areas. The targets for creation of additional employment during 2005-06 are 5.5 lakh under the REGP and 3.75 lakh under PMRY. The target of additional employment generation in the coir sector during 2005-06 is 0.20 lakh.

The units set up under the REGP and PMRY as well as those in the khadi and coir sectors mostly use local raw materials. This leads to value addition in local raw materials and marketing of the products in villages and towns, thus helping in promoting supplementary of rural and urban areas.

Modernisation of traditional industries

3093. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated programmes for regeneration and modernization of traditional industries; and