

(c) and (d) Development of rural and agro industries is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, Government supports the efforts of State Governments through a number of interventions. Project proposals under PMEGP for setting up micro-enterprises including agro-based industries are submitted by individual beneficiaries to the implementing agencies such as DICs under State Government, State KVIBs and KVIC State/Divisional offices. These are then screened by District Level Task Force and recommended to Banks. During the current year (upto 28.02.2011) 2,94,205 applications were received under PMEGP by the implementing agencies out of which 1,39,341 proposals were recommended to Banks. In addition, Government in Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises provides assistance for the development of clusters including agro based ones under Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP). A total number of 244 MSE clusters including agro based ones have so far been completed. Another 244 MSE clusters are in various stages of development. Also, in traditional sector, the Government has taken up around 105 clusters for the development under Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) including 23 agro based ones.

#### **Setting up of clusters for micro and small units**

1953. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the setting up of clusters with common infrastructure facilities for the micro and small units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had approved the proposals for establishment of industrial estates and upgrading the existing ones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing Micro and Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) Scheme for development of MSEs in clusters through interventions leading to setting up of Common Facility Centres and Infrastructure Upgradation.

(c) and (d) Yes, under infrastructure development component of MSE-CDP scheme, 130 proposals have been approved for infrastructure development.

#### **Impact of global melt down on MSME sector**

1954. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of specific industries in MSME sector affected the most by global melt down;
- (b) the details of products produced by such industries; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government to revive such industries?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The global economic recession had adversely affected export market of Indian industry, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and in particular, major sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery and auto components.

(c) Keeping in view impact of global economic slowdown on MSMEs, Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Public Sector Banks had taken several measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSMEs. The important measures taken were: extending loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.1 crore, with a guarantee cover of 50 per cent; increasing guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent for credit facility upto Rs.5 lakh; interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium enterprises (SME) sector; refinance limit of Rs.7,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector; grant of need-based *ad hoc* working capital demand loans upto 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent.

#### **Mining of dolomite in Bhutan**

1955. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that random mining of dolomite in Bhutan is leading to rise in contamination of rivers flowing in Dooars; and
- (b) if so, the action being taken by Government to stop such contamination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Geological Survey of India [GSI] has not carried out, in recent times, any test to study the level of contamination of rivers flowing in Dooars area due to mining of Dolomite in Bhutan. However, there are some reports of indiscriminate mining of Dolomite in Bhutan leading to destruction of the fragile eco-system in the Terai region of Eastern Himalayas. GSI carried out studies on Preliminary Assessment of flash floods and siltation in the Hashimara Jhora [Doti Nala] area; Pheuntsholing-Jaigaon along the Indo Bhutan Border and also in Jainti area of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.