

cooperation in the field of MSMEs in the broad areas of capacity building, joint actions to improve investments, survey and feasibility studies, partnership projects, exhibitions and trade fairs, exchange of business missions, exchange of information, etc.

During the last five financial years, the Ministry has entered into Agreements/MOUs with the following countries:

Financial Year	Name of the Country	Type of Agreement	Counterpart Ministry/ Organisation	Date and place of signing
2007-08	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2008-09	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2009-10	Arab Republic of Egypt	Joint Action Plan	Ministry of Trade and Industry	29/10/2009 Cairo
2010-11	Republic of Botswana	Memorandum of Understanding	Government of the Republic of Botswana	17/06/2010 New Delhi
	Republic of Korea	Memorandum of Understanding	Small and Medium Business Administration	18/06/2010 Korea
	Republic of Mozambique	Memorandum of Understanding	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	30/09/2010 New Delhi
	Republic of Indonesia	Memorandum of Understanding	Ministry for Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises	25/01/2011 New Delhi
2011-12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The MOUs are available on the website [msme.gov.in](http://msme.gov.in)

#### **Facilities and affordable technologies**

4893. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to reach the grass-root level and provide facilities and affordable technologies;

- (b) the problems faced by the Ministry to reach village/cluster levels; and
- (c) the steps taken to monitor and minimize the cost of logistics?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) undertakes various schemes and programmes for the holistic development and promotion of khadi and village industries which includes reaching to the grassroots level and providing facilities and affordable technologies.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization (MGIRI) at Wardha, a national-level institute, undertakes research, design and extension activities in the rural industries sector.

KVIC and Coir Board also implement a specific programme for cluster development, viz. Scheme of Funds for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), under which assistance for replacement of obsolete equipment, setting up common facilities centres, product development, market promotion and other support are provided. So far, 76 clusters in khadi and village industries sector and 20 clusters in coir sector have been developed.

In addition, Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is also implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for setting up micro-enterprise in the non-farm sector. Under PMEGP, general category beneficiaries can avail of margin money subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to special categories such as scheduled caste/scheduled tribe/women the margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. The maximum cost of projects is Rs. 25 lakh in the manufacturing sector and Rs.10 lakh in the service sector. So far, 1.66 lakh projects have been assisted under PMEGP with margin money subsidy of Rs. 3062.40 crore, creating employment opportunities for an estimated 16.10 lakh persons.

Schemes and programmes are closely monitored. Efforts for systemic improvement in the light of implementational problems are a continuous process.

#### **Remuneration of khadi spinners**

4894. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to hike the minimum remuneration of khadi spinners and also hike their minimum wage;