

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the spinners are earning very meagre amount and Khadi and Village Industries Commission has asked Government to examine alternative ways for enhancing the earning capacity of artisans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Remuneration/wages to khadi artisans including spinners are paid by the concerned khadi institutions, which are mainly registered societies and trusts and function on a no-profit -no-loss basis.

In 2011-12 Government introduced a scheme named 'Market Development Assistance (MDA)' to replace the erstwhile system of 'Rebate' on sale of khadi and polyvastra in which only customers used to be benefited. Under MDA, assistance @ 20% of value of production of khadi and polyvastra is provided for artisans, producing institutions and selling institutions in the ratio of 25:30:45. Thus, for the first time a system has been put in place to provide for a direct share of 25% of the incentive on production to the artisans, including spinners. Government has also made it mandatory to make payments to the artisans through their Banks/Post Office accounts.

The cost charts revised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) with effect from 01.04.2012 provide 50% enhancement in spinning wages *i.e.* from Rs. 2 per hank to Rs. 3 per hank. In addition, the cost charts prescribed by KVIC also provide for 10% of the wages to go to the spinners and weavers as incentive and 12% as contribution to the Artisans' Welfare Funds (AWFs) managed by AWF Trusts constituted for the State concerned.

Special development plan for MSMEs

4895. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the enormous contribution of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government is thinking of devising a special development plan for these enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has notified on 26/03/2012 a

Public Procurement Policy for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for improving their market access and competitiveness through increased participation by Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Government purchases and encouraging linkages between MSEs and large enterprises. Further, the Ministry is augmenting growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises including Khadi, Village and Coir Industry in priority areas of skill development, marketing, technology up-gradation, infrastructure and credit availability.

Funds for SCSP and TSP

4896. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of funds earmarked for the Scheduled Caste Special Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) to the Ministry during the last three years;
- (b) the details of actual amount utilized with break-ups; and
- (c) the details of beneficiaries/achievements?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of funds allocated and utilization thereof under the components of Schedule Caste Special Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) during the last three year in the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation		Utilization	
	SCSP	TSP	SCSP	TSP
2009-10	231.10	122.48	174.99	87.00
2010-11	298.10	156.74	255.94	135.68
2011-12	324.20	221.70	217.29*	119.00*

* Provisional

(c) The funds are directed to the targeted beneficiaries under SCSP and TSP. The schemes are largely demand driven. Beneficiary-wise details are not maintained.

Mineral Mines

†4897. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mineral mines in the country, State-wise, including Maharashtra;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi