

above 18 years of age irrespective of income is eligible for assistance. For projects costing above Rs 10 lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakh in the service sector, the beneficiaries should have an educational qualification of atleast VIII standard. Units that have already availed government subsidy under any other scheme of Government of India or of State Government are not eligible. The detailed guidelines of the scheme is available on the website www.kvic.org.in.

(c) and (d) PMEGP is implemented through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBS) and District Industries Centres (DICs). KVIC is the nodal agency at the national level. Individual project proposals for setting up micro-enterprises are screened by District-level Task Force Committee (DTFC) headed by District Magistrate/Collector and are recommended to Banks for sanction. No specific recommendation, as such, is necessary from State Government.

Promotion of Agro and rural industries

4268. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action taken by Government for implementation of various schemes to promote agro and rural industries including the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), scheme-wise and State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government to address the shortcomings, if any, noticed therein;

(c) whether some of the agro and rural industries are on the verge of closure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been implementing a number

of schemes including the Prime Ministers Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for promotion of agro and rural industries (ARI) through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Coir Board. These include: (i) Market Development Assistance (MDA), (ii) Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) scheme, (iii) Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), (iv) Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans, (v) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP), (vi) Scheme for Strengthening Infrastructure of Existing Weak Khadi Institutions and Assistance for Marketing Infrastructure, (vii) Scheme for Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans, (viii) Khadi Reform and Development Programme (KRDP) and (ix) Rejuvenation, Modernization and Technology Upgradation of Coir Industry (REMOT). These schemes are implemented across the States/Union Territories depending upon willingness of beneficiaries and availability of viable proposals.

KVIC and Coir Board who implement these schemes get them duly evaluated through independent agencies for their continuation in the next Five Year Plan and their finding, observations and recommendations (including any shortcomings noticed) are duly taken into consideration for deciding their continued implementations in succeeding Five Year Plan. The State-wise data on performance of PMEGP, the major scheme of ARI sector implemented by KVIC as nodal agency at national level, during XI Plan is given in Annex.

(c) No significant trend of any agro and rural industries being on the verge of closure has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

Encouraging young entrepreneurs

4269. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to encourage and promote young entrepreneurs in the country;

(b) if so, the details of entrepreneurial activities supported by the Ministry