

Coir products are biodegradable and have the advantage of being from renewable natural resource. Further, Coir Board has developed and encouraged the use of natural dyes extracted from plants.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization(MGIRI) is also engaged in developing products, processes and machines for the KVI sector, which include a number of eco-friendly products such as solar charka, solar potter wheel, solar food dryer, biogas power plants, bio-manure kit, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, technology for extraction and use of vegetable dyes, natural colours for terracotta jewellery, herbal products such as nutraceuticals, herbal tea, herbal gulal, herbal cosmetics etc.

Revival of Bell-metal industry in Assam

1356. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Ministry of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to formulate and offer a comprehensive package providing central aid and subsidies for the revival of the century-old traditionally run Bell-metal industry of Sarthebari at Barpeta District of Assam;

(b) if, so the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken for modernization of this industry to capture a sizeable share of global market; and

(d) whether Government has also taken some positive measures for inclusion of brass work cottage industry (Traditional handicraft of the Assam State) in the ambit package of the central aid and subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The Government has taken initiatives in some of the key areas to improve the bell metal industry of Sarthebari at Barpeta Distt. of Assam under MSE-Cluster Development Programme. A Diagnostic study of bell metal cluster Sarthebari Barpeta was taken up by MSME-DI Guwahati (a field office of Ministry of MSME) in the year 2011-12. Subsequently Soft Interventions in the cluster were approved at a total cost of Rs 16.55 lakhs with Government of India contribution of Rs. 14.61 lakhs.

The Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), New Delhi has sanctioned Rs. 49.15 lakhs for 15 SHG (315 artisans) at Sarthebari at Barpeta District

of Assam under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) scheme. Further, the office of DC (Handicraft) has sanctioned one Common Facility Centre involving an amount of Rs. 49.76 lakhs and one raw material bank amounting to Rs.100 lakhs for the cluster.

Government of Assam has also taken the following initiatives for the same cluster:

- (i) An amount of Rs. 157.34 lakhs was released under the State priority scheme for bell metal industry, Sarthebari by Government of Assam.
- (ii) From this raw material assistance was provided to 280 Bell Metal artisans and 200 brass metal artisans.
- (iii) Grant of working shed was released to 480 artisans amounting to Rs51.30 lakhs.
- (iv) A godown costing Rs.3.99 lakhs has been constructed by Assam Industrial Infra-Structure Development Corporation (AIIDC) at Sarthebari for the benefit of artisans.

(d) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has nine various schemes under the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, MSE-Cluster Development Programme and Credit Linked Capital subsidy Scheme for providing assistance towards Modernization, Quality Improvement, Energy Efficiency, Marketing and Design aspects of products etc of MSEs in the country. These schemes would be applicable to Brass work cottage industry in Assam also.

The benefits under NEIIP (North East Industrial Investment Promotion Policy) of Ministry of Commerce & Industry and State Industrial Policy of Government of Assam are available to Brass and Cottage industry at Assam.

Compulsory blending of ethanol in petrol

1357. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that most of the petroleum companies are not obeying instructions of Government for compulsory mixing of five per cent Ethanol blending in petrol, whereas if petroleum companies mix five per cent Ethanol blending in petrol, there may be huge saving of FOREX and it will be also helpful to domestic sugarcane industries also indirectly to the farming community;

(b) if so, the details of further action has been taken by Government in this regard; and