

The short term as well as long term measures include implementation of various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructure development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurship and skill development etc. The major schemes include Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme and Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, all of which help achieving improvement of MSME sector and generation of employment.

Wages of cutters and weavers in KVIC

†732.SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cutters and weavers working in Khadi and Village Industries are receiving less wages in comparison to other labourers;
- (b) if so, whether Government will consider to pay proper remuneration to them;
- (c) if so, the amount to be paid as wages and by when; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): (a) to (d) Khadi artisans are self-employed part time workers involved in the production of khadi and are free to associate or dissociate from the khadi institutions at will. Khadi artisans, including spinners and weavers are paid by Khadi Institutions differently as per their output for specific types of works, based on minimum rates fixed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) from time to time. KVIC has informed that the average daily earning of weavers is in the range of Rs.200-300/- per day which compares favorably with wages of labourers in the rural areas and small towns. However, KVIC has taken a number of steps to increase the earnings of khadi artisans and to ensure that equitable remunerations are paid to them by the institutions concerned. Under the Market Development Assistance scheme, khadi institutions are provided assistance @ 20% of the value of production; of this, 25% is earmarked for artisans, which is in addition to their wages. Khadi institutions registered with KVIC and State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) are required to contribute 12% of wages of artisans to Artisans Welfare Funds.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.