

Programme. Furthermore, Ministry of MSME has been interacting with various concerned Ministries/Departments/State Governments/Banks and other Stake holders to streamline the mechanism for grant of loans, simplify labour laws and other procedures to facilitate the setting up of start up units. The State Governments have made varied degree of progress in this direction.

#### **Entrepreneurship Development Programme in the country**

543. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has earmarked and allocated funds for Entrepreneurship Development Programme in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and results yielded so far in the Eleventh and Twelfth Plan periods, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry provided entrepreneurship development training to 16,87,324 persons during the Eleventh Plan with an expenditure of ₹234.86 crore and 11,58,562 persons during the first 2 years of Eleventh Plan with an expenditure of ₹ 222.62 crore.

The Ministry's interventions are in the nature of Central Schemes which are implemented through Institutions such as MSME-Development Institutes, KVIC, Coir Board, National Level EDIs, NSIC etc. The data for Entrepreneurship Development Programmes are maintained institution-wise.

#### **Protection of MSME Sector**

544. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any fresh steps to protect the small and medium enterprises (MSME) which are hard hit by the current economic slowdown, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government's initiatives for mitigating the hardships of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have not really percolated down to the ground level, if so, the details thereof?