

Improvement and upgradation of poverty alleviation programmes

74. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the action taken to improve and upgrade the poverty alleviation programmes aiming at providing Food for Work to the poorest of the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL): The Ministry of Rural

Development implements the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) to provide wage employment in the rural areas of the country, food security and improve nutritional levels alongside the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructural development. The Programme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around his/her village/habitat. The Food for Work has been merged with the SGRY since 1.4.2002. The Special Component of SGRY is also being implemented alongwith the Scheme for providing food security to the poorest of the poor.

Welfare of handloom weavers

†75. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise/category-wise number of handloom weavers in various States of the country as on date;

(b) the facilities provided by Government to these handloom weavers during the last three years; and

(c) the subsidy made available to each State during the said period for the welfare of handloom weavers and number of handloom weavers benefited thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA):

(a) As per the joint Census of Handloom & Powerloom conducted during 1995-96, there were 65.5 lakh persons engaged in the handloom weaving and its associated activities in the country. The State-wise/category-wise number of handloom weavers in the country is given in Statements I and II respectively (See below)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.