

(c) The Government has taken several measures to promote access of MSMEs to finance including the following:

- (i) Launch of 59 minute loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs.
- (ii) 2% interest subvention for GST registered MSMEs.
- (iii) Increase in interest rebate from 3% to 5% for exporters who receive loans in the pre-shipment and post-shipment period.
- (iv) Companies with turnover of more than ₹500 crore to be compulsorily brought on the Trade Receivables e-Discounting System (TReDS) to enable entrepreneurs to access credit based on receivables.
- (v) The Corpus of Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme has been enhanced from ₹2500 crore to ₹7500 crore. The eligible loan limit under the CGTMSE has also been enhanced from ₹ 1 crore to ₹ 2 crore.
- (vi) A provision of second loan of upto ₹ 1 crore has been introduced under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for well performing units.

Aims and objectives of SC/ST Hub

401. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) what is SC/ST Hub and what are its aims and objectives;
- (b) what kind of financial, technical and other support SC/ST Hub is providing to SC/ST entrepreneurs;
- (c) whether there are any plans to extend this to OBCs as well; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Budget Announcement 2016-17, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) had launched the National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) Hub. This scheme is being implemented through the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.

(NSIC), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of MSME. The SC/ST Hub provides professional support to SC/ST entrepreneurs to fulfill the obligations under the Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises, adopt applicable business practices and leverage the Stand up india initiative with an objective to promote "enterprise culture" amongst the SC/ST Population. The functions of the Hub include collection, collation and dissemination of information regarding SC/ST enterprises and entrepreneurs, capacity building among existing and prospective SC/ST entrepreneurs through skill training and Entrepreneurs Development Programmes (EDPs), vendor development programmes, promoting participation of SC/ST entrepreneurs in exhibitions trade fairs, facilitating SC/ST entrepreneurs participating in public procurement and monitoring the progress, etc. Further, various interventions have been approved under the scheme including Special Marketing Assistance Scheme (SMAS), Single Point Registration Scheme (SPRS), Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS), capacity building programmes, reimbursement of Bank Guarantee charges, Bank Loan processing charges, Testing Charges/fee of various NABL accredited laboratories etc. The total project cost for the SC/ST Hub Scheme for the period 2016-17 to 2019-20 is ₹ 490 crore.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. National SC/ST Hub Scheme has been created only for SC/ST entrepreneurs.

Oil import dependence in the country

402. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil import dependence has increased during the last four years, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the crude oil production has declined during the last two years, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has made some changes to the exploration policy, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the impact it can have on reducing the oil import dependence; and

(e) the other measures taken by Government to reduce oil import dependence?