

Ministry of MSME already has a B2B MSME Global Mart Portal and efforts have been made to further strengthen activities under it. The salient features of the portal include online registration, web store management, multiple payment options, customer support through Call Centre and enhanced security features.

(d) and (e) The revenue generation from the portal will depend on membership of the portal.

Competitive advantage of SMEs in global market

1552. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) engaged in developing countries, normally produce traditional items of inferior quality accompanied with low productivity and they mainly cater to the small local markets and that an accelerated technical change for making the SMEs to establish a competitive advantage in the global market is difficult; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) MSMEs contribute 29.7% of GDP and 49.66% of Indian Exports. Government has taken various initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through schemes such as Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS), Micro and Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme, Procurement and Marketing Support and support for MSMEs to participate in international exhibitions / trade fairs, conferences / summits/ workshops.

MSME units associated with auto industry

†1553. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) units associated with auto industry are going through a period of great crisis;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a substantial number of labourers working in these industries are on the brink of starvation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to help these labourers get over this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) to (c) reports indicate cyclical slowdown in vehicle sales during April-September, 2019 as compared to the same period in last year. Ministry of MSME has not received any report on job loss in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) units associated with auto sector.

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Government to counter automotive slowdown include reduction in Corporate Tax from 30% to 22%, linking of repo rate to interest charged for vehicle purchased, etc.

**Participation of the transgender community
in MSMEs**

1554. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government collects data separately on industries owned by transgenders;

(b) if not, whether Government proposes to take steps to collect the same;

(c) if so, the data for the years 2016-19 separately on the number of industries owned by transgenders; and

(d) whether Government proposes to make schemes aimed at an increased participation from the transgender community?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and rural/urban unemployed youth. Any individual, including transgender, above 18 years of age is eligible under PMEGP for setting up of projects upto ₹ 25 lakh in the manufacturing sector and ₹ 10 lakh in the service sector. General category beneficiaries can