

(b) whether Government are facing any practical difficulty in extending the benefit of pension to those who are not covered under the family pension scheme irrespective of their age limits;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's views to enhance the pension amount on the basis of price index?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) All members of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme who have joined on or after 16.11.95 are members of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. All employees who have been members of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) as on 15.11.1995 but, not members of the ceased Family Pension Scheme, 1971 can exercise option to be members of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is a defined benefit funded scheme. The benefits are paid out of the Pension Fund which are based on actuarial study. Age limit is one of the crucial factors, which affect the design and outlay in any pension scheme. As such, the benefit of pension cannot be given irrespective of age limits.

Pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is not linked with Dearness Allowance based on cost of living index. The Employees' Pension Scheme is a contributory scheme with limited resources. Therefore, it is not considered desirable to burden the scheme with unlimited liability which is likely to arise by linking the pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 with the consumer price index. However, there is a provision in the EPS, 1995 for annual valuation of the Pension Fund. Based on valuation results as also the availability of resources, relief is granted to the pensioners, in addition to the minimum pension payable. Till date, four additional reliefs have been sanctioned.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Production of Khadi in Andhra Pradesh

2204. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Khadi in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how it compares with other Khadi producing States; and

(c) what steps KVIC has taken to ensure quality control and marketing development of Khadi in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY): (a) The production of Khadi in Andhra Pradesh and its share in total All India Khadi production in terms of percentage during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Production (Value Rs. in lakhs)	Share (in %)
1999-2000	2319.79	4.20
2000-2001	2204.22	5.11
2001-2002	1856.46	4.52

(b) The State-wise Khadi production in the country is given in Statement enclosed (See below).

(c) In order to improve the design and development and testing the quality of Khadi fabrics in the State, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has tied up with the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Hyderabad and the Textile Committee, Hyderabad. KVIC has also launched a project through an NGO *i.e.* Dastkar Andhra, Secunderabad under which workers from seven Khadi producing institutions are provided training in processing Khadi yarn by using vegetable dyes. 247 certified sales outlets are engaged in the marketing of Khadi products for development of Khadi marketing. Further, to boost the Khadi marketing KVIC has also organized five exhibitions during 2001-02.

In addition to this, the Government had announced a package on 14.5.2001 for development of Khadi and Village Industries which is under different phases of implementation. The package *inter-alia* provides for insurance cover to Khadi artisans, option between rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building and cluster development, technology upgradation, quality control, marketing through publicity and advertisement etc.

Statement*State-wise Khadi Production under KVI Sector*

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	(Rs. in lakhs)		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1.	STATES			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2319.79	2204.22	1856.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.01	5.00	4.18
3.	Assam	442.33	421.62	403.39
4.	Bihar	2868.67	1543.81	1543.81
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	2931.04	2416.05	1857.24
7.	Haryana	2576.29	1634.92	2007.16
8.	Himachal Pradesh	510.30	296.92	296.92
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	874.92	702.35	702.36
10.	Karnataka	3564.32	3300.24	3273.55
11.	Kerala	1020.36	969.28	992.73
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1180.17	392.54	339.30
13.	Maharashtra	2328.02	2703.09	3489.91
14.	Manipur	34.71	35.00	35.00
15.	Meghalaya	7.25	3.60	1.60
16.	Mizoram	0.00	40.84	40.80
17.	Nagaland	28.12	69.55	54.89
18.	Orissa	420.29	208.81	221.89
19.	Punjab	2404.46	1252.57	1063.41
20.	Rajasthan	3079.33	2497.52	1278.90
21.	Sikkim	4.94	6.93	8.73
22.	Tamil Nadu	8222.32	6040.32	5408.04
23.	Tripura	3.44	3.40	3.40

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1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15118.63	11290.99	9920.86
25.	West Bengal	5129.39	4222.01	4612.38
26.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	436.89	584.22
27.	Jharkhand	0.00	314.99	154.24
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	808.64
	TOTAL-I	55074.10	43013.46	40964.01
II. UNION TERRITORIES				
1.	Andamans Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Delhi	112.60	113.27	106.96
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	1.00	0.00
7.	Pondicherry	7.43	30.66	28.93
	TOTAL-II	120.03	143.93	135.89
	GRAND TOTAL	55194.13	43157.39	41099.90

Setting up ARIs in rural tribal areas

2205. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to set up Agro and Rural Industries to process the food in the rural and tribal regions;

(b) if so, the details for the next five years, State-wise, area-wise and product-wise; and

(c) the amount Government have already spent to encourage Agro and Rural Industries in the remote hinterland of the country in order to save the food (vegetables and fruits) getting rotten?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY):