

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 129
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

MAHILA UDYAM NIDHI SCHEME

129. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries enrolled under the Mahila Udyam Nidhi scheme State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that less than 20 per cent of MSMEs are owned by women and 11.5 per cent of these businesses had permanently closed down during the coronavirus lockdown, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps and schemes undertaken by Government to curb this discrepancy?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI NARAYAN RANE)

(a): The Mahila Udyam Nidhi (MUN) Scheme was originally launched by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in FY 1987 and was operated by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIIDBI) since its inception in April, 1990. The objective of the Scheme was to provide soft loan (quasi equity) assistance to women entrepreneurs for setting up new industrial projects for the first time with project cost of not more than Rs.10 lakh. MUN scheme was withdrawn by the Bank with effect from October 01, 2009. A total amount of Rs.13.09 Crores was disbursed during the period FY 1987 to FY 2009, benefiting 2328 women entrepreneurs.

(b): As per the National Sample Survey (NSS) 73rd Round report (July 2015 to June 2016), 19.5 per cent of the total unincorporated non-agricultural proprietary enterprises were owned by women.

COVID-19 epidemic temporarily affected various sectors including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the country. Economic activity contracted during the lockdown period. This contraction has also had impact on the MSME sector. Studies have been conducted by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to assess the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on MSMEs including units set up under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

A. The main findings of the online study conducted by NSIC to understand the operational capabilities and difficulties faced by the beneficiaries of NSIC schemes amid Covid-19 pandemic are as follows:

- a) 91% MSMEs were found to be functional.
- b) Five most critical problems faced by MSMEs were identified as Liquidity (55% units), Fresh Orders (17% units), Labour (9% units), Logistics (12% units) and availability of Raw Material (8% units.)

B. The findings of the study conducted by KVIC are as under:

- a) 88% of the beneficiaries of PMEGP scheme reported that they were negatively affected due to Covid-19 while the remaining 12% stated that they were benefitted during Covid-19 Pandemic.
- b) Among the 88% who were affected, 57% stated that their units were shut down for some time during this period, while 30% reported drop in production and revenue.
- c) Among the 12% who had benefitted, 65% stated that their business increased as they had units in retail and health sector and around 25% stated that their units benefitted as they were dealing with essential commodities or services.

A few private studies have estimated that 11% of women-led businesses closed down permanently due to the pandemic.

(c): To encourage entrepreneurship among women, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implements 'Skill Upgradation & Mahila Coir Yojana' under Coir Vikas Yojana, which is as an exclusive training programme aimed at skill development of women artisans engaged in the Coir industry. Two months training in coir spinning is imparted through this programme. All the candidates undergoing the training are given a stipend of Rs. 3000/- per month. During FY 2020-21, a total of 3591 women artisans were trained.

The Ministry also implements 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. For beneficiaries belonging to special categories such as Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/OBC /minorities/women, ex-serviceman, physically handicapped, NER, Hill and Border areas, etc., higher subsidy is given. The trained artisans under "Skill Upgradation & Mahila Coir Yojana" are encouraged to avail assistance through PMEGP scheme to set up coir units. During FY 2020-21, a total of 27,285 women entrepreneurs availed assistance through PMEGP scheme and set up their micro enterprises, thereby providing employment to 2,18,280 persons.

The Ministry also implements several other schemes for promotion and development of MSMEs, including women owned MSMEs, namely, Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Tool Rooms & Technology Centres, Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), Procurement and marketing Support Scheme, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP), Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS) etc.
