

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1226
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES IN RURAL PUNJAB

1226. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up agro-based industries in the rural areas of Punjab and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the funds allocated for the said industries during the last four years and the current year in the State of Punjab; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to promote agro-based industries in rural areas of Punjab?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA)

(a) & (b): Ministry of MSME, through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is implementing **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)** for assisting entrepreneurs in setting up of new units in the non-farm sector including agro-based food processing industries. It aims to bring together widely dispersed traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth and give them self-employment opportunities to the extent possible, at their doorstep.

Under PMEGP, General Category beneficiaries can avail Margin Money subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to Special Categories, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities, Women, Transgenders, Ex-servicemen, Differently Abled, beneficiaries belonging to North-Eastern Region, Aspirational District, Hill and Border areas, etc., the Margin Money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban area. The maximum cost of project is Rs.50 lakh in the manufacturing sector and Rs.20 lakh in the service sector. The own contribution for beneficiaries belonging to Special Categories is 5% of project cost as compared to 10% for General Category beneficiaries.

The details on Margin Money (MM) subsidy disbursed and units assisted in agro-based food processing Industries under PMEGP in the State of Punjab during last four years and current year i.e., 2022-23 (as on 08.02.2023) is given below:

Year	Units Assisted	MM subsidy disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)
2018-19	246	988.68
2019-20	224	741.75
2020-21	429	1491.56
2021-22	468	1704.02
2022-23 (as on 08.02.2023)	288	1710.63
Total	1655	6636.64

(c): KVIC has taken following steps to promote agro-based industries in rural areas and generate more employment opportunities in the country including Punjab:

- i. KVIC has started online Registration of new Khadi Institutions through Khadi Institution Registration and Certification Sewa (KIRCS) for undertaking Khadi activities by the new entities.
- ii. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through its training centres and through other promotional schemes conducting Skill Development Programme (SDP) and Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP) in the country for unemployed youth to generate self-employment opportunities in traditional industries.
- iii. Awareness camps, workshops and exhibitions at all levels are being organized in order to popularize the Khadi & Village Industries (KVI) schemes for generation of employment opportunities.
- iv. Publicity of KVI schemes through print and electronic media.
- v. To supplement the income of farmers, Adivasis and unemployed youth of the country, KVIC has launched Honey Mission during 2017-18. Under Honey Mission, beneficiary is provided with 10 bee boxes with live bee-hives, tool-kit and training.
- vi. Under Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Programme, KVIC is uplifting rural pottery artisans' livelihood by providing skill upgradation training and providing new home scale energy efficient equipment like electric pottery wheels, blunger, pug mill, kiln etc. for producing good quality of products.
- vii. KVIC through www.ekhadiindia.com, www.khadiindia.gov.in has started online selling of all KVI products.
