

INDUSTRIES

The Union Territory of A&N Islands is classified as Industrially backward area. Due to logistics problems, non-availability of raw materials and absence of local markets the growth of Industries in last two decades has been very slow.

Wood and seashells are the major raw materials available. Consequent to the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court all private wood based Industries shall be closed from 31.03.03. Sea shell based handicrafts items are also facing serious crisis with 9 types of shells brought under Schedule-I as per the notification of Ministry of Environment & Forest.

Due to sensitive ecological conditions, Tourism, IT, Handicrafts and Fisheries have been identified as focus areas for promotion of industries.

Present Status and Growth of industries:

There were 6 medium scale units out of which 4 wood based industries in private sector have been closed down due to non-availability of raw materials. One wood based industrial unit in Govt. sector and one gas-manufacturing unit in private sector are functioning.

There are 1531 SSI units registered with the Directorate of Industries up to 31.3.2003. As per the recent survey report approximately 48% of the units have been closed.

There are two 100% export oriented units for processing of fish and exporting fish products.

Schemes and Achievements:

The Department provides composite loan to the entrepreneurs through SFC (ANIIDCO). In the last three years 50 units were given assistance and total amount of Rs.65.30 lakh was disbursed.

Under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme of KVIC, in the last three years 800 unemployed youths were sanctioned loan and an amount of Rs.795.12 lakh was disbursed.

The Department provides loan for procurement of DG sets and water harvesting equipments and a total of 11 persons benefited under the scheme and total amount of Rs.23 lakh was disbursed.

Subsidy is provided to the various SSI Units and an amount of Rs.1690 lakh was disbursed to 20 units in the last 3 years. Subsidy on DG sets and capital assets installed by the SSIs were given to forty one units and an amount of Rs.43.00 lakhs was disbursed. Interest subsidy to 496 PMGY beneficiaries was granted and an amount of Rs.23.00 lakhs was disbursed.

The department through Emporium (Sagarika and KG Bhavan) provides marketing assistance to SSI units for sale of handicrafts items.

Total number of indirect employment generated in the last three years is 452 and sale thereof was to the tune of Rs.287 lakh.

The department extends infrastructural support to SSI units by giving plots and sheds at nominal rent depending on availability. Altogether 22 plots and 20 sheds have been given to various SSI units.

Future Plans/Strategy for attracting investment in the islands

In order to attract the private investment in these areas, the Department has proposed a new package of incentives in the 10th Five Year Plan. These schemes include –

Hundred percent transport subsidy for export of handicrafts excluding Seashell items.

Fifty percent Capital Subsidy on establishment of Tourism, IT and eco friendly industries in rural areas.

Interest free loan composite loan of Rs.50 lakh for infrastructure development in IT Tourism, Coir, Fisheries related activities creating minimum of 30 employees.

Fifty percent subsidy on power tariff to IT, Tourism, Fisheries, Coir & other Marine based activities in rural areas.