

NGOs in Wastelands Development

4271. SHRI SARAT PATTNAYAK :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Governmental Organisations have failed to achieve its objectives in Wastelands Development since the inception of the Department;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have sought participation of people for the success of various works undertaken under the integrated wasteland development project scheme;

(d) if so, the details of works undertaken during 1992-93 to 1995-96;

(e) the amount of grants released to voluntary agencies for wastelands development in Orissa during the last three years;

(f) whether irregularities have been committed in implementing the programme; and

(g) if so, the action taken against the Non-Governmental Organisations so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. These Organisations have done good work in creating awareness amongst the people about the danger of further degradation of land and to bring the already degraded lands under afforestation by involving people in the process.

(b) In view of the (a) above, (b) does not arise.

(c) Under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme, participation of the people is sought for their successful implementation through the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), which are District Rural Development Agencies or Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) selected by them.

(d) 136 project have been sanctioned under Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme and Rs. 164.51 crores have been released for implementation of these projects during 1992-93 to 1995-96.

(e) A total grant of Rs. 7.80 lakhs has been released to NGOs in the Orissa State during the last three years.

(f) and (g). No case of irregularity committed by any of the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the implementation of the projects sanctioned in their favour has come to notice from the State of Orissa. However, in two cases in view of low percentage of surviving plants, the NGOs have been directed to improve their performance during the next phase of the implementation of the programme.

Drinking Water in Urban Areas

4272. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the measures being taken to provide drinking water to the urban poor and the slum dwellers; and

(b) the number of people died in urban areas due to waterborne diseases during the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Water supply is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to plan, design, implement and monitor water supply projects in urban areas including slums.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme has been launched in 1993-94 which provides for safe and adequate water supply facilities in towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 Census). It is funded by the Central and the State Governments in the ratio of 50:50.

Another Centrally sponsored Mega City scheme which provides Central assistance for the development of infrastructural facilities in the five mega cities, also has a component for water supply projects.

(b) No such statistics are being maintained by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Construction by DDA

4273. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn towards the news item published in, Hindu dated July 27, 1996, under the caption 'Profit making overriding principle for DDA';

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The news item contains, inter alia, the following observations of Chief Minister of Delhi at the inaugural session of the Workshop on "Decentralised Approach for Urban Basic Services" :-

(i) The Planners and Policy makers of DDA have ignored the provision of urban services and utilised the land for the sole purpose of making profit.

- (ii) The planners do not understand the importance of dispersal of population over the larger area and housing activities of DDA are confined to certain pockets of land where the rates of return are very high. Housing colonies in C.R. Park, Greater Kailash II and Panchsheel Enclave, etc. have come up on main roads.
- (iii) The lopsided development has resulted in unauthorised colonies and J.J. clusters because of the denial of roof to the hapless people who migrated to Delhi for their livelihood.
- (iv) About 60 percent of Engineers of DDA are idle.

The comments of Government as based on the factual position furnished by the DDA are as under :-

- (i) DDA is a non-profit making organisation constituted under Delhi Development Act, 1957 for planned development of Delhi which includes non-profitable uses like green/recreational areas and semi-public facilities, circulation etc.
- (ii) DDA has built flats in different parts of the city to meet the needs of the growing population. Construction of housing colonies like C.R. Park, Panchsheel Enclave, etc. are on service roads and not on main roads. The MPD-2001 recognises and supports the policy of dispersal laid down in the Regional Plan-2001 of NCR.
- (iii) DDA provides housing for people of different categories of income including Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Group. The cost of houses in the case of Economically Weaker Sections and LIG includes an element of subsidy also.
- (iv) There is adequate work for all the Engineers working in the DDA.

[Translation]

Kerosene to Granite Factories

4274. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 450 Granite Factories in Jalore district in Rajasthan depend on kerosene for their operations;

(b) if so, whether the Government have fixed any quota of kerosene for these factories;

(c) if not, the source from where kerosene is being supplied for operating these factories; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (d). Kerosene is an allocated product. The Central Government makes bulk allocation of kerosene to the States/UTs on a historical basis, i.e., based on past entitlements. Its retail distribution within the State including allocation to industrial units in the State is the responsibility of the State Government.

Under the Parallel Marketing Scheme, private parties are free to import and market kerosene at market-determined prices. The industrial units including granite factories can get supplies of kerosene from Parallel Marketeers.

[English]

Contractual Workers

4275. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI M. SELVARASU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of contractual workers working under ONGC in Goa under the control of local management and other places;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the tragic plight and exploitation of these workers in respect of wages and other benefits; and

(c) the time by which these contractual labourers are likely to be given regular wages and other benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) ONGC Ltd. awards job contracts depending on the nature of work and operations on the basis of its requirements at various work centres, including Goa. In turn, the contractors engage manpower to carry out the jobs. The Corporation does not have details of the number of persons engaged by the contractors for completing the various jobs.

(b) and (c). ONGC Ltd. keeps a strict vigil to ensure compliance of the statutory obligations under Labour Laws by the contractors in respect of their workers. As per the provisions of the Labour Laws, contractors are required to pay to their workers atleast the minimum wages fixed by the Appropriate Government for the job.

Retired Army Officers in Jammu & Kashmir

4276. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the retired army officers have been appointed to head the jails in Jammu and Kashmir; and