

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2633
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2023**

**FUNDS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN
ASSAM**

2633. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that only Rs. 180 crores out of the approved Rs. 1076 crores has been utilized in Assam with only 26 per cent of the works completed for various rural development schemes;**
- (b) whether the Government has identified the reasons for the poor performance in Assam and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome bottlenecks and ensure effective utilization of funds in Assam; and**
- (d) whether there is a mechanism to improve the efficiency of the schemes by addressing corruption and bureaucratic lags and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of welfare schemes for rural areas of the country including in the State of Assam viz., Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) . Further,

Watershed Development Component (WDC) of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for rural development and poverty alleviation.

The Central component of funds under the schemes/ programmes of this Ministry are released to the States/UTs taking into consideration the unspent balance available with them and submission of utilization of funds already granted. The details of the funds sanctioned/released to the State of Assam and utilised by it under the various rural development schemes of MoRD, wherever applicable/maintained, during the current year are as under :-

i. Under, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, during the current financial year 2023-24 (as on 15.12.2023) an amount of Rs.1,715.86 crore has been released towards wage, material & administrative contingency to the State of Assam and a total number of 4.77 lakh works were completed in the State during the said period. Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven scheme. Hence, no target is fixed under the scheme.

ii. Under PMAY-G, target of 19,79,219 houses has been allocated to the State of Assam against which 19,76,305 houses have been sanctioned & 16,94,020 houses have been completed which is more than 85% of the allocated targets. A total of Rs.21,962.15 crore has been released as Central Share to the State of Assam, against which the State has utilized Rs.24,035.12 crore (including State Share released in 90:10 ratio).

iii. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), allocation to the State of Assam in the current Financial Year is Rs.590.00 Crore. The expenditure made in the Assam State under PMGSY for current year till date is Rs.382.00 Crore. Out of sanctioned road length of 32,420 Km in Assam under various verticals of PMGSY, road length of 31,342 (around 97%) Km has been completed. Sunset date for completion of works under PMGSY-I & II is March 2024 whereas for PMGSY-III works, sunset date is March 2025. As such, performance of PMGSY in the State of Assam is satisfactory.

iv. Under DAY-NRLM, during the current financial year, out of the central allocation of Rs.398.43 Crore, the expenditure incurred by the State Government of Assam is Rs.279.09 Crore which is

70.05%. During this period, against the target of formation of 18193 SHGs (Self Help Group), 17525 SHGs have been formed so far.

v. Under NSAP schemes, Central Govt. has fixed a ceiling of beneficiaries for each State/UT (State Cap). Presently, NSAP schemes cater around 3 crore BPL beneficiaries. Funds are released to States/UTs as per the State Cap or number of beneficiaries digitized on NSAP portal, whichever is lower. Details of funds released and total no of beneficiaries covered under NSAP schemes in During FY 2023-24, RS.144.90 Crore has been released to the State of Assam and 812099 beneficiaries have been covered (As on 14.12.2023). Pension schemes of NSAP have already achieved 100% saturation in all States/ UTs, including Assam.

vi. Under DDU-GKY & RSETIs, no fund has been released during FY 2023-24 so far to Government of Assam.

vii. Under WDC-PMKSY2.0, a total of 31 watershed projects covering an area of 1.36 lakh hectare at a total cost of Rs. 310.60 crore have been sanctioned to Assam for implementation of projects from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. So far, an amount of Rs. 138.30 crore has been released as Central share to the State. As per information available at Public Finance Management System, State has utilized Rs. 120.27 crore (utilization includes both Central share and State share).

(c) & (d): This Ministry is taking up various steps to ensure effective implementation of these schemes to ensure that benefits of these schemes reached to all poor people of the rural areas of the country. Some of the major strategies in this regard are:

- i. In order to ensure that the schemes reach closure, the Ministry has evolved a comprehensive multi-level and multi-format system of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of rural development schemes, including Performance Review Committee Meetings, District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (“DISHA”) meetings, National Level Monitors (NLMs), Area Officers Schemes, Common Review Mission, Concurrent Evaluation and Impact Assessment Studies. State specific reviews of States/UTs are also undertaken from time to time.**

- II. The schemes of the Rural Development have been brought upon end-to-end transaction based MIS, which enables all the stakeholders to monitor status of schemes in a real time basis. The works are photographed with geo-tags and time stamps. All the data of RD schemes are available on public domain.**
- III. In addition to above, the Ministry has arranged for sufficient fund for completion of works and further, bottlenecks like forest clearance that require facilitation with Ministry of Environment and Forests or Banks are also arranged.**
- IV. Social Audits are also conducted for some Schemes like Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and PMAY-G. Appointment of Ombudsman is also made for attending to any grievances regarding MGNREGA works. In addition, grievance redressal is being given due attention in all schemes of the Rural Development.**
- V. States are advised to recruit adequate staff for implementation of the programme. Norms have been laid for staffing. Funds are provided for supporting hiring of manpower and other administrative expenditure. The training and orientation of programme manpower is also arranged from time to time.**
- VI. Norms for administrative and technical oversight and audit have been laid down. Mobile application for inspection viz. Area Officer App has been developed. Similar apps have been developed or are under development in other areas too. The performance of officials are monitored against them.**
- VII. Regular coordination with the State Govt. for preparation of the fund release proposals and documentation is made and timely advice is tendered to them in this regard. In cases of delay, the matter is escalated to higher levels for seeking release of funds.**
- VIII. Women networks, community based organisations and civil society organisations are mobilised for creating demand from below for proper implementation of the schemes.**

- IX. Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns including wall paintings for the wide dissemination of the schemes are undertaken.**
- X. Under NSAP, State Governments are encouraged to top up the assistance provided by the Central Government.**
- XI. DAY-NRLM ensures that the poor are provided with the requisite skills for managing their institutions, linking up with markets, managing their existing livelihoods, enhancing their credit absorption capacity and credit worthiness, etc. A multi-pronged approach is envisaged for continuous capacity building of the targeted families, SHGs, their federations, government functionaries, bankers, NGOs and other key stakeholders. Particular focus is on developing and engaging community professionals and community resource persons for capacity building of SHGs and their federations and other collectives. Extensive use of ICT is being taken to make knowledge dissemination and capacity building more effective.**
- XII. The financial support is provided to SHGs and their federations in the form of Revolving Fund (RF) and Community Investment Support Fund (CISF) to enable them to take up economic activities for income generation.**
