

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3422
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Integrated Rural Development Projects (IRDP) in several States have been rising indebtedness of the beneficiaries;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to make IRDP a micro-finance programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to monitor such projects throughout the country effectively?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) to (d): There is no specific information in the Ministry of Rural Development on indebtedness of beneficiaries of the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme(IRDP)However, Concurrent Evaluation of the IRDP for the period July, 1995 to June, 1996 reveals that 55.41% of the old beneficiaries (i.e. beneficiaries assisted under the IRDP on or before 31st March, 1994) were in overdues, which could imply indebtedness in some cases. The reasons for the overdues, included, delay in income generation, inadequate income from the assets, diversion of income to meet consumption needs, sale of IRDP assets etc. The Evaluation Report, however, also reveals that in 23.4% of cases, the overdues were due to willful default.

The IRDP is no more in operation since 01.04.1999.The IRDP and its allied Programmes were restructured to launch the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) w. e. f. 01.04.1999 for self-employment of the rural poor.The SGSY has the provision of micro-finance in terms of Revolving Fund (RF) to the Self Help Groups (SHGs) i. e. at the rate of Rs.25,000/- per Group, comprising of Government subsidy of Rs.10,000/- and Bank credit of Rs.15,000/-A Self Help Group is eligible for Revolving Fund if it is in existence for a period of 6 months and has demonstrated the potential of a viable group. One important objective of the Revolving Fund is to develop capacity of the group to utilize the funds. The funds can be used both for consumption and productive purposes.

(e) The existing provisions for the monitoring of the SGSY are as follows:

(i) Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Annual Progress Reports from the States/UTs.

(ii) Field visits and physical verification of assets by the Area Officers from the Ministry and States/UTs level officers.

(iii) Review of the Programme by the Central Level Co-ordination Committee (CLCC) and Performance Review Committee (PRC) at the Central level, State Level Co-ordination Committee (SLCC) and State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) at the State level and District & Block level SGSY Committees at the district and block levels respectively.

(iv) Periodical evaluation and research studies.

(v) Monitoring and review of the Programme by the State, District and Block Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.