

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1240
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000
EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES OF NIRD
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any efforts have been made to expand the activities of National Institute of Rural Development located in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether any camps have been held in different parts of the country to train Panchayati Raj elected officials;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which the NIRD has been able to identify problems in the existing working of local Panchayati Raj Institutions?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a): The NIRD has striven to expand its training and research activities in different areas and has set up Specialised Centres, in addition to developing a close network with the various State Institutes of Rural Development. The Institute has upgraded computer facilities by establishing Local Area Network and Computerised Library Information Cell. At present, Action Research Projects are under operation in different States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Besides, public information kiosks have also been established on a pilot basis to provide information to the rural people. In order to keep the elected representatives informed of the developments across the States, a monthly news letter 'PANCHAYAT UNNATI' has been started and circulated amongst 2.3 lakh Panchayati Raj bodies across the country.

(b): The NIRD has been organizing off-campus training programmes for the elected representatives, as well as the official functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions in various parts of the country, primarily through the State Institutes of Rural Development, in addition to its regular training programmes at headquarters.

(c): On an average, the Institute conducts 120-130 training programmes per year, including off-campus programmes organised in different parts of the country.

(d): A comprehensive 'Patterns of Decentralised Governance in Rural India' on the working of Panchayati Raj Institutions in 19 major States had examined the working of the Panchayati Raj system in various States. Panchayati Raj being a State subject, different States have location specific/State specific operational problems, particularly with regard to the devolution of functions and funds, as well as transferring different departments, institutions and functionaries to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.