

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2158

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004

FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made under poverty alleviation programmes during last one year;
- (b) whether poorest of the poor are getting the benefits under Integrated Rural Development Programme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures taken to use surplus grain for the poorest of the poor;
- (e) whether any shortcomings detected in the food for work programme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their rectification?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) During 2003-04, 8010.45 lakh mandays were generated under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), 8,92,890 Swarozgaris were assisted under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and 13,34,245 houses were constructed/upgraded under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY).

(b & c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), a holistic self employment programme in rural areas w.e.f April, 1999, after restructuring the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and its allied programmes. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. It is a credit linked scheme wherein credit is the key element and subsidy being an enabling component. 20.19 lakh Self Help Groups have been formed and 45.81 lakhs Swarozgaris have been assisted with a total investment of Rs.9522.15 crores since inception of the scheme.

(d) to (g) With effect from 1.4.2002, the Food for Work Programme is being implemented as a special component of the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), a wage employment programme. The main problems which have been noticed in the implementation of this programme include difficulties in timely, regular and adequate supply of foodgrains in deficit areas which delays payment of wages and logistics problems in movement of foodgrains. Some States have difficulties in arranging cash payments under the special component of the SGRY where only foodgrains are given free of cost by the Centre. The SGRY and the Special Component of the SGRY are part of Governments efforts to utilise surplus foodgrains.