

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1577

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2005

EMPLOYMENT TO ADULTS UNDER NREGS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of Unions have sought for a central legislation for protecting the interests of adults and providing them employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes for 150 days as reported in the Hindu dated October 13, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith other issues raised by them, if any; and

(c) the response of the Government on all the issues raised by them?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir. An article titled `Many of the 450 million agricultural workers live in dire conditions` was published in `The Hindu` on 13th October, 2005.

(b) & (c) : The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 provides for at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was introduced during the year 1985-86 to provide assistance for construction/upgradation of dwelling units to the below poverty line rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers categories. From the year 1993-1994, the scope of the Scheme was extended to cover non-SC and ST rural BPL poor subject to the condition that the benefit to non-SC/ST would not be more than 40% of the total IAY allocation. The benefits of this Scheme have also been extended to the families of ex-service men of armed and para-military forces killed in action. 3% of the houses are reserved for the rural BPL physically and mentally challenged persons. During the year, 2004-2005, a total of 151622 houses were constructed under this Scheme.

Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, additional Central assistance is provided to the States/UTs by the Central Government. Under this Scheme, the amount of Old Age Pension for the purposes of claiming additional Central assistance is Rs.75/- per month, per person for old age destitute person of the age of 65 years or higher.