

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:148

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2007

EXTENSION OF NREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) all over the country;
- (b) if so, whether ground work to extend the scheme has been completed;
- (c) the fund earmarked for the purpose;
- (d) the number of additional families likely to be covered in NREGS;
- (e) whether any suggestion/request has come from States in this regard and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government of India has decided to extend NREGS to all the remaining rural districts in the country, including the Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008. A notification to this effect was issued on 28.9.2007. Funds for preparatory arrangements for new districts like IEC, printing and procurement of statutory documents, training of officials and non-officials and preparation of perspective plans have been released to the States.

(c): NREGA is demand driven and not an allocation based programme. A National Employment Guarantee Fund has been established for providing funds to the States for implementation of the Act. For the current financial year, a budget provision of Rs.12,000 crores was made for implementation of the Act. Provisions are made in the budget for implementation of the Act on the basis of funds utilized by the States and also on the basis of demand for work in the previous year.

(d): NREGA is demand driven. Adult members of any rural household may apply for employment under the Act subject to an over-all ceiling of 100 days of employment in a financial year per household. Therefore, no targets can be fixed for providing employment under the Act.

(e) & (f): Suggestions/requests had been received from various States for coverage of selected districts under NREGA. However, Government has decided to extend NREGA to all the remaining rural districts in the country including Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008.