

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:217  
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2007  
ASSESSMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any village based impact assessment studies to assess the collective impact of all the programmes of Rural Development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the outcome of these studies?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development have been conducting the Impact Assessment Studies from time to time to assess the effectiveness and impact of rural development programmes. The micro level impact assessment studies are conducted taking District as a unit. The broad methodology devised by the Ministry also includes the collection of primary sample data at the village level. Since 1999, in all 238 studies have been conducted through independent research institutions.

The findings of the impact studies broadly reveal that although there are variations across the States in terms of impact of the programmes, however, by and large, the implementation of the programmes have helped in increasing the income levels, and improving the quality of life of the people. With the creation of physical, economic and social infrastructure such as primary school buildings, community halls, houses for poor, rural roads, toilet facilities, drinking water supply etc. enabled the rural masses to have a better access to the basic amenities, better health and education facilities besides providing connectivity to the markets and also building the awareness amongst the rural people. The findings of these studies are shared with State Governments, policy makers and other stakeholders.