

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1129

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007

ROLE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NREGS

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the responsibilities entrusted to Panchayati Raj Institutions under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);
- (b) the arrangements made by the Government to impart training to responsible persons under the said scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has delegated any power to the Panchayati Raj Institutions to take punitive actions against the agencies/individuals indulged in corruption in the implementation of the said scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details of such cases brought to the notice of the Government by Panchayati Raj Institutions?

Answer

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

(a): In accordance with Section 13(1) of NREG Act 2005, the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village level are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the Schemes made under the Act. The functions of the Panchayats at the district level are to finalise and approve block-wise shelf of projects to be taken up under a programme under the Scheme; to supervise and monitor the projects taken up at the Block level and district level; and to carry out such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Council, from time to time. . The functions of the Panchayat at intermediate level are to approve the Block level Plan for forwarding it to the district Panchayat at the district level for final approval; to supervise and monitor the projects taken up at the Gram Panchayat and Block level; and to carry out such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Council, from time to time. As per Section 16 of the Act, Gram Panchayats have been assigned a pivotal role in the implementation process. They are responsible for planning of works, registering households, issuing job cards, allocating employment, executing 50% of the works in terms of cost and monitoring the implementation of the scheme at the village level. Besides, as per Section 17 of the Act, the Gram Sabha has been vested with the responsibility to monitor the execution of works within the Gram Panchayat and to conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the Scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat.

(b): Training of different stakeholders including PRI functionaries, administrative and technical staff and members of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee has been high on Government priority to strengthen the administrative set up. Two Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes were conducted by National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD) Hyderabad, during 2006. Three day training programme was organized at Mussorie for District Programme Coordinators. The State Governments have also been asked to arrange training for its officials and PRIs through SIRD or any other Institute in the State. Funds are provided to the States by the Centre for such trainings. So far, a sum of Rs. 6613.09 lakhs has been released by the Centre for this purpose. 200000 PRI functionaries, 58016 Administrative and Technical officials and 28071 VMC have so far been trained.

(c): No, Sir. The NREG Act does not envisage delegation of powers by the Central Government to the PRIs.

(d): Does not arise.