

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:222

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2008

IMPLEMENTATION OF NREGS

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Meinya Dr. Thokchom

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

- (a) the State-wise categories of community assets created so far and their value in money terms since the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) across the country;
- (b) the nature of irregularities noticed in implementation of the scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up corrective measure along with the State Governments, as far as the mal-implementation of NREGS is concerned with special reference to false muster rolls, siphoning of funds, inflated payment to contractors etc; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 222 to be answered on 14.3.2008

(a): Under NREGA, 2.10 crore households had been provided employment during 2006-07 and 3.02 crore households have been provided employment during the current year up to February, 2008. As a result of this employment, community assets have been created. Since the launch of the Act, a total of 2330053 works have been taken up out of which 1171353 are water conservation works (50.27 %), 328886 works relate to land development (14.11%), 441388 works relate to rural connectivity (18.94 %) and 307850 works relate to provision of irrigation facility and horticulture plantation to land owned by SC, ST, BPL families and beneficiaries of land reforms and IAY (13.21%), State-wise works taken up so far under NREGA for creation of community assets, benefits created and expenditure incurred on them is given in Annexure-I.

(b): Ministry of Rural Development undertakes rigorous reviews of NREGA through independent monitors called National level Monitors and through Area Officers of the Ministry. CAG was also requested by the Ministry to undertake performance audit of NREGA for the year 2006-07 in 68 phase I districts. Some irregularities have been reported in the implementation of NREGS. These mainly relate to procedures such as application for employment, issue of dated receipts, job card formats, muster rolls, maintenance of record registers. In addition, complaints have also been received from various quarters regarding irregularities in the implementation of NREGA. State-wise details of the complaints along with the action taken by the Ministry thereon have been put on the web site [www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in) under the heading 'Complaints'.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Measures taken by the Government to check the mal-implementation of NREGS are as given below.

(1) Transparency

(i) Payment of wages through workers accounts in Banks/post offices:

(a) Instructions have been issued to state governments for coordination with the Department of Posts to ensure that accounts of NREGA workers are opened in Banks/Post offices for payment of wages and are made fully effective during 2008-09.

(b) Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State governments and Department of Posts to ensure smooth payment to workers through their postal accounts is being finalised.

(c) Workers accounts in Banks/Post offices have been opened in some states. Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Karnataka have taken the lead in this direction. Other states that have reported their progress so far are Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. A total of 11028779 accounts have so far been opened in these states. Remaining states are taking action in this regard.

(ii) States have been advised to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months. Social Audit has been done in 76000 Gram Panchayats.

(iii) Citizen Information Board has been introduced. This board is to be displayed at all prominent places. This will enable the local community to know the works being undertaken under NREGA and would also facilitate the process of spreading awareness about the programme.

## (2) Generating Awareness

Various steps have been taken to generate awareness about NREGA.

### (i) Initiatives taken by State Government:

- a) Gram Sabhas and one day orientation of all Sarpanches at the Block level have been held.
- b) Leaflets and brochures in local language are being provided
- c) Village camps have been organized by the District teams and Self help Groups are being associated in the awareness generation

### (ii) Action taken by the Central Government:

- a) CAPART has been asked to provide training to the NGOs and Civil Society organisations associated in the awareness generation campaign.
- b) The Government of India has decided to introduce awards to be known as Rozgar Jagrookta Puraskar (Employment awareness awards) to recognize the outstanding contribution by the civil society organisations for promoting effective implementation of NREGA in different states of the country.
- c) Use of media, TV spots, radio jingles, advertisements, films.
- d) Development and dissemination of brochures and peoples primers.

## (3) Vigilance and Monitoring

(i) Implementation of NREG Act is monitored on regular basis. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up at State as well as district levels. Local MPs are the members of the district Vigilance and Monitoring Committees. Village level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have also been set up for local monitoring. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council also undertake field visits to various districts. National level Monitors and Area Officers visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. So far, NLMs have made 331 visits to Phase I and Phase II districts.

(ii) Muster Roll verification has to be done in a campaign mode and consolidated reports sent to the Ministry. So far, 4621120 Muster rolls have been verified. 1126914 Muster rolls have been placed on the website.

## (4) Regular Review of NREGA

### (i) Review with State Governments

- a) During the year 2007-2008, three Regional Review Committee meetings have been held to cover review of all States. These were held at Bhubaneswar (16-17 September), Jaipur (24-25 September) and Guwahati (9-10 October).
- b) Review meeting with State Secretaries (Rural Development) of all States was held on 18.12.07 in Delhi.
- c) Meeting of the Performance Review Committee was held in Delhi during 16-17 January, 2008.
- d) A meeting with State Secretaries (RD) of all States was held in Delhi in January, 2008 to discuss the draft CAG report.

### (ii) State specific reviews

Five state specific review meetings have been held. These were with the Government of Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

### (iii) Interaction with representatives of people

Progress of NREGA was reviewed in the interactive session with Members of Parliament held during 20th-23rd August, 2007 and 5th-6th September, 2007

Minister of Rural Development has sent 4 letters to Chief Ministers of all States and 3 letters to Members of Parliament informing them about the status of implementation of the Act from time to time.

#### 5) MIS/ e-Knowledge Network

(i) A comprehensive Web-based MIS [www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in) has been implemented which places all data in public domain. This data pertains to workers' entitlements like registration, Job cards, muster rolls, employment demanded and provided; work data like sanctioned shelf of works, work estimates, work in progress, measurement; Financial indicators like funds available/spent, amount paid as wages, materials and administrative expenses. Data software has been engineered for cross verification of records and for report generation. Details of 25001781 Job Cards and 1126914 Muster rolls have been placed on the website.

(ii) Ministry of Rural Development has introduced e-knowledge network for effective implementation of NREGA. Innovations at worksites and local solutions are very helpful in meeting the challenges of implementation of NREGA across the country. E-knowledge network helps in lateral transfer of these local solutions, especially among the District Programme Coordinators. The knowledge network aims at connecting practitioners and providing solutions on demand through a knowledge pool built up dynamically by exchange of information, ideas and best practices