

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:145
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
MONITORING OF PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether proper monitoring of projects is the need of the hour to speed up growth and development of rural India;
- (b) the annual expenditure on projects meant for people living in poverty under various Government schemes in the rural areas;
- (c) whether any concrete steps are being worked out to monitor these projects to promote development in rural India; 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 Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 145 due for Answer on 15.07.2004.

The Ministry of Rural Development places special emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of its programmes being implemented in rural areas all over the country. Effective monitoring of the programmes is considered very important for optimizing the outcome and ensuring that the benefits of the programmes reach the rural poor. The Ministry has instituted an in-built monitoring mechanism in the guidelines of each Scheme so as to ensure that the objectives of the scheme are achieved by their implementation.

2. The total Plan Outlay and total Central funds released during the last three years for major poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are given below: -

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Total Plan Outlay	Total Central Releases
1. 2001-2002	12265	13459
2. 2002-2003	13670	18203
3. 2003-2004	14070	19228

3. With a view to ensuring that the benefits of the rural development schemes reach the targeted persons, the Ministry has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of the programmes, including utilization of funds, through the following mechanisms:

1. Reviews by Union Minister:

The Union Minister of Rural Development and the Ministers of States for Rural Development visit the States and review the performance of the programmes with the Chief Ministers, State Ministers of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and senior Officers of the State Government concerned with the implementation of the programmes. Such high-level Review Meeting has proved to be very effective in close monitoring of the programmes.

2. Area Officers` Scheme:

The Ministry has an Area Officer's Scheme for monitoring the programmes with special reference to quality, adherence to implementation schedule, flow and utilization of funds, physical and financial achievements etc. Senior Officers of the level of Deputy Secretary and the above in the Ministry visit randomly selected villages in different Districts under the Area Officers' Scheme.

3. Performance Review Committee:

This Inter Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD) consisting of the representatives from the Planning Commission and Central Ministries of Finance, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Environment & Forests and all the State Secretaries of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj is an effective forum for monitoring the programmes being implemented on a quarterly basis and make suitable recommendations for corrective action, wherever found necessary.

4. Periodical Progress Reports:

All the Programmes of the Ministry are continuously monitored through progress Reports indicating both the financial and physical progress of the programme implementation. State-wise and programme-wise performance of the programmes is brought out in the Monthly Progress Reports.

5. District Level Monitoring:

The Ministry undertakes District Level Monitoring of Rural Development Programmes in 126 Districts in 25 States through locally based independent Research Institutions/Agencies. Independent Report on the physical and financial progress of programme implementation on a monthly basis is obtained through this system of monitoring besides qualitative reports and verification of physical assets created under different programmes.

6. Concurrent Evaluation and Impact Assessment Studies:

The Ministry undertakes Concurrent Evaluation Studies on various sectoral programmes and bring out reports which focus on the major achievements of these programmes as also the problems and issues in programme implementation. Village based Impact Assessment Studies are also conducted for assessing the overall impact of all Rural Development Programmes converging in selected villages.

7. National Level Monitors:

The Ministry has a panel of National Level Monitors(NLMs) consisting of senior retired Civil and Defence Officers to monitor the policy and implementation aspects of the programmes at the grass root levels. The NLMs also look into various specific complaints regarding programme implementation.

8. Vigilance & Monitoring Committee:

The Ministry is also reconstituting Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State level under the chairmanship of the State Ministers of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and at the District level under the Chairmanship of the Members of Parliament for effective monitoring of the implementation of all the programmes.

9. The Gram Sabha are also authorized to conduct Social Audit for ensuring transparency and effective implementation of rural development programmes.