

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2335
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010
IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGS AND PMGSY
Deora Shri Milind Murl

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of officers of Planning Commission has pointed out that there exists serious shortcomings in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in worst Naxal-hit districts in the country; and

(b) if so, enumerate the reasons and shortcomings and the corrective measures being taken to overcome the shortcomings?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a): Yes, Sir. A team of officers of Planning Commission was deputed in groups to 35 focus districts affected by Left Wing Extremism in 9 States to assist the district authorities for preparation of an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for development of these naxal affected districts. The team of officers after interaction with the district authorities and with the local people made some observations regarding implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and PMGSY in these areas.

(b): Observations made by the team regarding Mahatma Gandhi NREGA related to poor banking and postal coverage, delay in wage payment; no linkage with PMGSY for road works, average of 17-40 days of employment per household, SC/ST farmers demanding construction of ponds on their fields etc.

As reported by the States, during 2009-10, average number of days of employment in LWE districts was 48 days per household. States have been advised to deploy adequate technical and non-technical staff with the implementing authorities to avoid delay in measurement. Payment through accounts of NREGA workers has been made mandatory. To cover gaps in financial services and outreach, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics and business correspondent models have been initiated. Instructions have been issued to the States to make available sufficient number of works in the shelf of projects to meet the labour demand. Para 1

(iv) of Schedule I of the Act has been amended to extend the benefit to Small and marginal farmers. Instructions have been issued to all States to extend the benefit to SC/ST beneficiaries on priority.

Observations of the team regarding PMGSY related to relaxation of PMGSY norms to cover habitations having population upto 250 and on security considerations, PMSGY roads should not end as a dead end and be inter- connected.

As per the provision of PMGSY Programme Guidelines, habitation of population 250 and above in Schedule V areas are eligible whereas in other areas, habitations having population above 500 are eligible. Moreover, the programme guidelines envisage only single connectivity to the eligible habitations.