

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2343
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010
POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT
Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate a time bound programme to eradicate unemployment in the rural areas of the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which it helps to solve the unemployment problem of the rural areas?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing major rural development schemes such as, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). These Schemes are intended to address the unemployment problem in the rural areas. MGNREGA was launched in 200 select districts on 2.2.2006 and was subsequently extended to 130 additional districts during 2007-08. The remaining rural areas in the country have been covered under the Act w.e.f. 1.4.2008. MGNREGA is a demand driven wage employment (guarantee) programme which seeks to provide supplementary means of livelihood for the rural people while simultaneously aiming at creating durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. However, there are no predetermined targets under the Act.

SGSY is a major self-employment programme implemented since April, 1999. SGSY is now being restructured as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) with a view to implement it in a mission mode for targetted and time bound delivery of results. Universal social mobilisation through formation of SHGs under NRLM will ensure atleast one member of each rural BPL family, preferably a woman member, is covered under SHG network. With a view to form strong Peoples Institutions, NRLM will focus on setting up of federations of SHGs from village panchayat to district levels. NRLM proposes to ensure Universal financial inclusion by facilitating opening of savings accounts of all its beneficiaries, simultaneously encouraging thrift and credit activities, facilitating access to credit from banks etc. In addition to self-employment, NRLM will also focus on supporting rural BPL for accessing skilled wage employment through higher allocation for Special Projects, particularly for placement linked skill development projects.