

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:65
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011
MONITORING OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (VMCs) constituted at district-levels, to oversee the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been subjected to any review in the recent years;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from various quarters for strengthening and equipping VMCs with statutory powers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to strengthen and empower VMCs?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

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

Statement referred in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 65 due for answer on 04.08.2011.

(a) & (b): The functioning of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees(V&MCs) constituted at district level to review the implementation of rural development schemes was reviewed and the guidelines were revised in the year 2010, with a view to facilitate more Meetings. The number of Meetings reported at district level went up to 840 during the year 2010-11 from 529 in the previous year.

(c) & (d): The Government has received representations form Members of Parliament for empowering district level V&MCs. The suggestions include the following:

- i) Enlarging the composition of the Committee;
- ii) Separate office and vehicle for the Chairman;
- iii) Empowering the Committee to select works/beneficiaries;
- iv) Empowering the Committee to take action against erring officials;
- v) Officials to accompany the Members of Parliament during inspections;
- vi) The Ministry may obtain Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the recommendations in the district level Meetings and take further follow up action, wherever required.

The Ministry of Rural Development has recently advised all States to include Lead Bank Manager and Senior Superintendent/ Superintendent of the Postal Department in the district level Committee with a view to enable the Committee to effectively monitor the payment of wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have also been brought under the purview of the Committee for review.