

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3841

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011

INTEGRATION OF SCHEMES

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is considering to integrate rural development schemes and agricultural activities to prevent the global slowdown from hitting the rural economy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government is taking action to boost the agricultural production through the Rural Development programmes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action plan prepared by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Ministry of Rural Development implements Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana/National Rural Livelihood Mission (SGSY/NRLM) for wage-employment and self-employment in rural areas.

MGNREGA provides up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The primary objective of the Act is augmenting wage employment. The choice of works suggested in the Act addresses problems of agriculture like drought, deforestation and soil erosion so that the process of employment generation is maintained on a sustainable basis. In fact, MGNREGA may be seen moving towards its objective of food and livelihood security and long term sustainable development through ecological regeneration.

SGSY is a major on-going scheme to bring the assisted rural poor families (swarozgaris) above the poverty line by assisting them to take up income generating economic activities including agriculture through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The scheme involves selection of key activities, planning of activity clusters, organization of the poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and building their capacities through training and skill development, creation of infrastructure, technological and marketing support etc. The SGSY has been restructured as NRLM with the core belief that the poor have innate capabilities and strong desire to come out of poverty.