

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:500  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011  
STRENGTHENING OF VMCS  
Ajmal Shri Badruddin

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has received the representations from the MPs of North Eastern States demanding strengthening of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (VMCs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to strengthen the VMCs with necessary powers so that the local MPs could play an effective role as Chairman in the implementation, monitoring and vigilance of the flagship rural development programmes?

**Answer**

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

(a): In a Meeting convened by the Minister of Rural Development on 8.6.2011, the Members of Parliament from the North Eastern States made certain suggestions for strengthening the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (VMCs).

(b): The major suggestions made by the Members of Parliament, in respect of VMCs, are the following:

i. District VMCs should be involved in the selection of projects;

ii. Members of Parliament should have powers to ensure action on the recommendation of the VMCs;

(c): The Ministry of Rural Development has advised all the States to include Lead Bank Manager and Senior Superintendent/ Superintendent of the Postal Department in the district level VMC 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 district level Committee for review. The Chief Postmaster General of the Postal Circle(s) in the State has been included as Member of the State level VMCs and the Convener Bank of State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) would be a special invitee. Since Vigilance and Monitoring should ideally be independent of implementation and the VMCs already have adequate powers for monitoring the implementation of rural development programmes, the Ministry do not consider it necessary to empower these committees further.