

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4817

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IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any village based studies have been conducted to assess the collective impact of all the programmes including National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) on family income, food security, infrastructure, empowerment of women workers etc. in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the extent to which implementation of these rural development and poverty alleviation programmes have raised the standard of living in rural areas of the country?

Answer

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

(a)to (c): The Ministry of Rural Development has been conducting the impact assessment studies from time to time to assess the effectiveness and impact of rural development programmes. The micro level impact assessment studies are conducted taking district as a unit and the broad methodology devised for such studies includes the collection of primary sample data at the village level. The findings of these impact assessment studies broadly reveal that although there are variations across the States in terms of impact of rural development programmes but, by and large, the implementation of these programmes have helped in increasing the income levels and also improving the quality of life of rural people. The creation of physical, economic and social infrastructure such as houses for the rural poor, rural roads, toilet facilities, drinking water supply etc. enabled the rural masses to have a better access to the basic amenities, better health and education facilities, besides, providing connectivity to the markets.

Under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), no specific study has been conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development to assess the impact on family income, food security and infrastructure in rural areas etc. However, a study conducted by National Federation of Indian Women on NREGA revealed that the programme has enabled the women for their greater participation in PRIs, Mahila Mandals and other socio-economic groups.