

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2485

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN NAXAL AFFECTED AREAS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various rural development schemes including PMGSY, MGNREGA, watershed development programme undertaken in naxal-affected districts of the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to give relaxation in the achievement of targets under these schemes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposal from the States in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to implement the schemes in naxal affected areas effectively?

Answer

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

(a)to(f): The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing various rural development schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in the country which also includes Left Wing Extremism (LWE) /Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts. So far, relaxations given by the Ministry under various schemes in Left Wing Affected/IAP Districts are as follows:-

1. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY) - The Ministry has relaxed guidelines of some rural development schemes for their implementation in Left Wing Extremism affected areas more effectively. Accordingly, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) guidelines have been relaxed including the following:

- (i) All habitations in Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts, whether in schedule-V areas or not, with a population of 250 and above (in 2001 census) will be eligible for coverage under PMGSY as against the population of 500 in other areas.
- (ii) In Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts, cost of bridges upto 75 metres under PMGSY will be borne by the Government of India as against 50 metres for other areas.
- (iii) In case of LWE/IAP districts, the minimum tender package amount is reduced to 50 lakhs.
- (iv) The time limit upto 24 calendar months would be allowed for completion of work. However, no extra liability, if any, on account of cost escalation shall be met from the programme fund provided by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

2. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) :- The following amendments in some provisions of the scheme for effective implementation of scheme in Integrated Action Plan(IAP) districts have been made:-

- (i) Cost sharing:- One Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) & Junior Engineer (JE) may be appointed in each Gram Panchayat in the IAP districts with 75:25 contribution of Centre & State respectively for next 10 years.
- (ii) Modification to the Model Recruitment and Service Rules:- Recruitment of PDO & JE should be made at the district level and not at the State level and candidate should be a resident of the district. In case of appointment of PDOs, graduate in any discipline can be considered.
- (iii) It has been decided to allow the State Governments to make MGNREGA wage payment through cash in IAP districts keeping in view the difficulties being faced in making of wage payments through Bank/Post Office accounts, where the limited institutional outreach of Banks & Post offices as well as special circumstances prevailing in the IAP Districts, subject to certain conditions. The arrangements for cash payment will be an interim arrangement for one year till proper banking & postal arrangements are established.
- (iv) As per notification issued vide dated 21st October, 2011, Construction of playgrounds has been included in the list of permissible

work in IAP districts.

3 . Indira Awas Yojana(IAY) :- In case of Indira Awaas Yojana, following modifications and relaxations have been made for implementation of the scheme in naxal-affected districts:

(i) 60 identified IAP districts are now treated as difficult areas and are eligible for higher rate of unit assistance of Rs. 48,500/- provided in hilly/difficult areas.

(ii) In the 60 IAP districts, the district administration has been allowed to construct houses for the old aged, widowed and physically handicapped persons if they so desire.

(iii) Cluster approach has been requested to be adopted in the 60 IAP districts to facilitate better convergence of amenities and for accelerated development in these areas.

4. Integrated Watershed Management Programme(IWMP):- The Department of Land Resources, with the approval of the Empowered Group of Officers to suggest measures for Accelerated Development of LWE affected areas, has allowed the flexibility in cost norms from Rs. 12,000/- per hectare upto Rs. 15,000/- per hectare based on adequate justification by State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) for implementation of IWMP projects in IAP districts.