

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2486
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011
PURA SCHEME
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is running Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district wise;
- (c) the amount released and spent under the said scheme during the last three years and the current year, State wise;
- (d) whether NOC or permission of the State is required for the scheme;
- (e) if so, the details in this regard, State wise;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to run this scheme in all the districts;
- (g) if so, the details thereof particularly in regard to district Lakhimpur-Kheri in Uttar Pradesh;
- (h) whether the Government proposes to increase the role of Local bodies in the implementation of PURA project; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN ADITYA`)

(a): The Central Government has approved Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Area (PURA) Scheme. The scheme proposes holistic and accelerated development of compact areas around a potential growth centre in Gram Panchayat(s) through Public Private Partnership(PPP) framework for providing livelihood opportunity and urban amenities to improve the quality of life in rural areas. The scope of the scheme is to select private partners to develop livelihood opportunities, urban amenities and infrastructure facility and to be responsible for maintenance of the same for a period of 10 years in selected Panchayats /cluster of Panchayats. Under the Scheme, the selected private partner is required to provide amenities like water supply and sewerage, roads, drainage, solid waste management, street lighting and power distribution and undertake some economic and skill development activity as part of the PURA project. The private partners may also provide `add-on` revenue-earning facilities such as village linked tourism, integrated rural hub, rural market, agri-common services centre and warehousing etc.

(b): Six companies namely M/s Infrastructure Kerala Limited (INKEL), M/s Mega Engineering & Infrastructure Limited (MEIL), M/s Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), M/s MARG Limited, M/s SVEC construction and M/s SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited have submitted 9 DPRs for taking up the PURA projects spread over 6 states namely Andhra Pradesh (2), Kerala (2), Maharashtra(l), Puducherry(l), Rajasthan (2), and Uttarakhand(l). Currently, the DPRs are under evaluation by Technical Experts.

(c): The restructured PURA scheme was launched with effect from 21st January, 2010. No projects were executed during the last three years. However, in the year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.66.20 crore was released to concerned District Rural development Agency (DRDAs) of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Puducherry, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The budget allocation for the year 2011 -12 is Rs. 100 crore and no releases has been made till date in the current year.

(d)&(e): Yes, the private partner has to obtain NOC from the State Government, In respect of all the 9 projects mentioned in part (b) above, NOC has been obtained from concerned State Governments by the private partners.

(f)&(g): This Ministry has received 9 DPRs from private partners for taking up the PURA projects spread over 6 states namely Andhra Pradesh (2), Kerala (2), Maharashtra(l), Puducherry(l), Rajasthan (2), and Uttarakhand(l). No DPR has been received in respect of Lakhimpur-Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh.

(h)&(i): Under the scheme, the consent of the Panchayat / a cluster of Panchayats is required to implement the project by the private partner. Signing of the concession agreement by the Panchayat with private partner is also a mandatory requirement for implementation of PURA projects. At the end of the concession period, the Panchayat take over the charge of the created assets through PPP to keep continuity of the services to the public.