

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:539

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012

CONCURRENT EVALUATION NETWORK UNDER MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to institutionalize a concurrent evaluation network to assess the rural development programmes on a monthly or bi-monthly basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether 70 per cent of funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are being spent for water conservation, rainwater harvesting and watershed management programmes only and drinking water and sanitation are the two areas being neglected;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether Union Government proposes to focus more on such areas and impress upon the States to consider local needs while prioritise the projects/schemes; and
- (e) if so, the instructions issued by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Ministry of Rural Development organizes concurrent evaluation /assessment of all its programmes/Schemes on periodic basis through independent and reputed agencies and organizations.

(b) to (e): The focus of activities under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have been listed in Schedule-I of the Act in the order of their priority. These include the following:

- (i) water conservation and water harvesting;
- (ii) drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation);
- (iii) irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works;
- (iv) provision of irrigation facility, horticulture, plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes or Below Poverty Line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojna of the Government of India or that of small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 or to the beneficiaries under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006,
- (v) renovation of traditional water bodies including de-silting of tanks;
- (vi) land development;
- (vii) flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas;
- (viii) rural connectivity to provide all-weather access, and
- (ix) any other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

The following have been notified under this provision

(a) Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level (included vide notification dated 11.11.2009).

(b) Construction of play grounds in districts as identified by the central Government for Integrated Action Plan (included vide notification dated 21.10.2011).

(c) Access to sanitation facilities in convergence with the Total Sanitation Campaign of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (included vide notification dated 30.09.2011).

For convergence of MGNREGA with other development programmes of the Government which have similar target groups, convergence guidelines have been developed and disseminated by the Ministry for several other development schemes. Amendments to para 1 of Schedule I of MGNREG Act have been carried out from time to time to enlarge the scope of works and activities that can be taken up. Section 16(1) of MGNREGA provides that Gram Panchayats shall be responsible for identification of projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under the scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabhas. Section 13(1) of MGNREGA provides that the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under the Act.