

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3376
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to create enough employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns during the current Five Year Plan with a view to checking the migration of a large number of rural people towards metro cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the Central schemes proposed to be launched in this regard; and
- (d) the amount earmarked for this purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (d): The Government implements various flagship programmes and other schemes aimed at building infrastructure and providing basic services, with the objectives of increasing inclusiveness and reducing poverty by providing direct and indirect employment opportunities to the people in rural areas and small towns. Among these, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a major employment programme aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do the unskilled manual work. Unique feature of the Act inter alia include, time bound employment guarantee and wage payment within 15 days, incentive-disincentive structure to the state governments for providing or not providing employment as per demand, emphasis on labour intensive works prohibiting the use of contractors, and machinery, ensuring the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure and assets in the rural areas. The Act also mandates 33% participation of women. The choice of works suggested in the Act addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion, so that the process of employment generation is maintained on a sustainable basis. It has also successfully raised the negotiating power of the agricultural labour, resulting in higher agricultural wages, improved economic outcomes and resulted in reduction in distress migration. MGNREGA has directly led to creation of 1151.78 crore persondays of work since its inception in 2006-07 to 2011-12 (as reported on 16.04.2012). During this period total expenditure incurred under the scheme is Rs 156562.91 crore. There is a budget provision of Rs 33000.00 crore for implementation of MGNREG scheme in 2012-13.

In addition to MGNREGA, other major employment programme to mitigate poverty and improve the living standards of the people in rural areas is Aajeevika (National Rural Livelihood Mission) having a budget provision of Rs 3563.00 crore for 2012-13. All these schemes will cumulatively impact migration. Overtime, because of the opportunities for employment being generated in rural areas as a result of flagship programmes, rural-urban migration is likely to come down. Independent and area specific studies by Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore & Disha, Ahemdabad, Institute of Human Development and that of Centre for Science and Environment have come out with the findings that with the implementation of MGNREGA, there is a reduction of out-migration from the villages in different parts of the country.