

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3005
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
COST OF HOUSES UNDER INDIRA AWAS YOJANA
Pathak Shri Harin;Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the National Building Code and prevailing schedule of rate, the estimated cost of disaster resistant 20 sq. meter house under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) is more than Rs. 90,000 but the unit assistance is kept at Rs. 45,000;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is proposed to raise the unit assistance for IAY house to Rs. 90,000;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the construction of IAY houses is proposed to be included as an approval work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to bridge the gap between assistance provided and actual unit cost of IAY house; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): The Government is aware that the present amount of unit assistance is not sufficient to construct a house. The Ministry had entrusted the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, a `Scientific Study of Unit cost of an IAY House in various Geo-climatic Zones of the Country`. For all the five climatic zones of the country, the cost of construction of good quality house having disaster resistant different regions of the country has been worked out to be ranging from Rs.0.98 lakh to Rs.1.44 lakh by incorporating disaster resistant features, Seismic Reinforcing Elements in walls, approaches for Rain Water Harvesting etc.

This issue was also placed before the Working Group on Rural Housing set up by the Planning Commission for formulation of 12th Five Year Plan. The Working Group has recommended enhanced unit assistance of Rs.75,000/- for construction of an IAY house in rural areas in its report submitted to the Planning Commission on 13/10/2011. However, in the recent years, Ministry has revised unit assistance from Rs.25,000/- in plain areas and Rs.27,500/- in hilly/difficult areas to Rs.35,000/- and Rs.37,500/- w.e.f 1st April, 2008. It was again revised upwards to Rs.45,000/- and Rs.48,500/- w.e.f 1st April,2010.

(e)&(f): The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing at least upto 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resources base of the rural poor is also an important objective of the Act. Since creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor is also an important objective of the Act and choice of works suggested in Schedule 1 of the Act is to address causes of chronic poverty through employment generation on a sustainable basis, it has not been found feasible to include construction of IAY houses as an activity to be taken up under MGNREGA.