GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3084
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
PERFORMANCE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that despite monitoring mechanism, the rural development schemes specifically Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are showing poor performance in many States;
- (b) if so, the details of irregularities noticed/reported during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct audit of rural development schemes by Comptroller and Auditor General;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the National Human Rights Commission has also observed that both the schemes have failed to achieve their goal;
- (f) if so, whether Government proposes to review these schemes afresh; and
- (g) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to implement the schemes effectively?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b): According to the progress reports received from the State Governments and implementing agencies, the performance of rural development programmes, including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been found satisfactory in most of the States. The irregularities noticed in the implementation of MGNREGA are generally relates to not providing job-cards, misappropriation of funds, engagement contractors, forgery of muster roll, under payment of wages, delay in payment of wages and non-payment of un-employment allowance etc. The Ministry has received a total number of 2525 and 233 complaints under MGNREGA and PMGSY respectively during last three years (i.e. 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12) and current year 2012-13 (up to July, 2012). As the implementation of all the rural development schemes is done by the State Governments, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Government for appropriate action. The complaints received under PMGSY are enquired by National Quality Monitors (NQMs) also.
- (c)&(d): Adequate provisions have been made in the Programme Guidelines for Audit of funds. Under MGNREGA, Employment Guarantee Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011, has been notified on 30th June, 2011. The Ministry has also requested for special financial and performance audits by CAG, to begin with, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the CAG audit has already commenced.
- (e)&(f): No, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has no information about the observations of the National Human Rights Commission regarding failure of MGNREGA and PMGSY.
- (g): The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level, and National Level Monitors. Besides, the State Governments have been advised to adopt a five- pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's partnership, (iv) accountability, social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all levels. Specific measures/steps have been taken under MGNREGA, which include strengthening management and administrative support structure for social audit, grievances redressal and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure, creation of State Employment Guarantee Fund, convergence with other developmental programmes of the Government, enlarge the scope of works/activities and appointment of Ombudsman at district level. Similarly, under PMGSY, the States have been advised to make institutional arrangement for efficient management including Online Management, Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMAS), 3 tier quality control, transparent tendering, provision of rationalization of bid document, capacity building of field functionaries and convergence with development programmes including transport facilities on the constructed road etc.