

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1710  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009  
IMPLEMENTATION OF NREGS  
Lal Shri Kirodi

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any review of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was undertaken recently;
- (b) if so, the shortcomings found in the implementation of NREGS; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken for proper implementation of the said scheme?

**Answer**

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

- (a): A Performance Review Committee (PRC) meeting with the State Governments was held on 8-9 October, 2009.
- (b): The main issues noticed by this Ministry related to delay in wage payment, inadequate positioning of staff at each level, lack of effective monitoring, transparency measures and social audit in time bound manner.
- (c): The Ministry has taken the following measures for proper implementation of NREGA:
  - (i) Permissible administrative expenditure limit has been enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for NREGA, strengthening of management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and ICT infrastructure
  - (ii) Payment through institutional accounts of NREGA workers has been made mandatory to infuse transparency in wage disbursement.
  - (iii) Instructions have been issued on 7.9.09 directing all States to appoint ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.
  - (iv) Social audit: Modifications have been made in the Act on 31.12.08 for laying down the procedures for social audit.
  - (v) Independent appraisal by professional institutions including IITs and IIMs and Agricultural Universities
  - (vi) Independent Monitoring by NLM
  - (vii) ICT based MIS to make data available to public scrutiny, inclusive of Job Cards, employment demanded and allocated, days worked, Muster Rolls, shelf of works, Funds available/spent and fund to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action.
  - (viii) Periodic reviews with State Governments
  - (ix) National Helpline now being upgraded to ICT based network of national helpline. Toll free Helpline No. is 1800110707.
  - (x) To cover gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics have been initiated.