

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:566

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009

OMBUDSMAN FOR NREGS

Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Patel Shri Devji

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to appoint an ombudsman in each district of the country to redress the grievances regarding irregularities during the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the mandate likely to be entrusted to the ombudsman; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry has issued an order and detailed instructions on 7.9.2009 directing all the State Governments/UTs to set up the office of the Ombudsman for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.A copy of the Order and detailed instructions is available on the website (www.nrega.nic.in).

Ombudsman will be an agency independent of the Central or State Government.

The Ombudsman will receive complaints from NREGA workers and others on any matters, consider such complaints and facilitate their disposal in accordance with law. The Ombudsman will also issue directions for conducting spot investigation, lodge FIRs against the erring parties, initiate proceedings suo motu when required and look into direct redressal,disciplinary and punitive actions In cases of corruption, he will forward the matter to take up criminal prosecution.