

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:664

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009

IMPLEMENTATION OF NREGS

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

- (a) whether any Government agency has ever evaluated the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to know the extent to which it has improved the living standards in the rural sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to expand and strengthen the scope of NREGS to include more activities including agriculture for rural development and simultaneously increasing the number of permissible working days under the Scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken and implemented to make the Scheme more vibrant and effective?

**Answer**

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

(a) No specific evaluation study has been done by any Government agency to evaluate the implementation of NREGS to know the extent to which it has improved the living standards in the rural sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The Government has modified para 1

(iv) of Schedule I of the Act by extending the benefits provided in the para to small and marginal farmers. The modified para 1(iv) reads as under :-

“(iv) provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes or below poverty line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of Government of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debit Relief Scheme, 2008.”

Further, construction of Bharat Nirman, Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level has been included as a permissible activity in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act vide Notification dated 11.11.2009.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for enhancing the number of guaranteed days of employment under NREGA.