

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:290
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012
NATIONAL LEVEL MONITORS
Deka Shri Ramen

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the role/functions assigned to the National Level Monitors (NLMs) with regard to various rural development schemes in the country;
- (b) the number of inspections/visits carried out by the NLMs to monitor the rural development schemes in different States including Assam during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the number of cases of irregularities found in various rural development schemes by the NLMs during the above period, State/scheme-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in Reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 290 due for Answer on 13.12.2012.

(a): The Ministry of Rural Development deputes retired civil service/ defence service/public sector undertaking officers and non-governmental institutions as National Level Monitors (NLMs) for monitoring the implementation of programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in different districts of the country. Their functions include regular monitoring of the programmes, special monitoring of specific programmes and enquiry into complaints as and when assigned. The NLMs are required to visit work sites and beneficiaries, assets created etc. and also interact with all stake holders including the public and furnish reports to the Ministry.

(b): The number of visits carried out by the NLMs in different States, including Assam, during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, is given in the Annexure.

(c)&(d): The reports of the NLMs relate to their observations during site visits and discussions including perceived deviations from the provisions contained in the Guidelines of the Schemes. The official record of the State Government is not accessible to them. As such, the observations of the NLMs are not conclusive at this stage.

The reports received from the NLMs are examined in the Ministry and are also forwarded to the State Government concerned for follow up action. Workshops are also held in which NLMs present their findings to the Ministry and State Government officials, and the State Governments are advised to initiate appropriate remedial action.