

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:384

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012

PURA SCHEME

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) Scheme;
- (b) the criteria for selection of the clusters of Gram Panchayats for development under PURA;
- (c) the details of clusters where the pilot phase of PURA Scheme was implemented and the benefits accrued to rural people as a result thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the number of projects to be implemented under the said scheme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan along with the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the house

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 384 for reply on 20.12.2012.

(a): Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) Scheme aims at holistic and accelerated development of compact areas around a potential growth centre in a Gram Panchayat (or a group of Gram Panchayats) through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework for providing livelihood opportunities and urban amenities to improve the quality of life in rural areas. The salient features of the scheme are as below:

- (i) Convergence of Central and State Government schemes.
- (ii) Public Private Partnership.
- (iii) The leveraging of public funds with private capital and management expertise for creation and maintenance of rural infrastructure.
- (iv) Implementation in project mode and based on lifecycle cost approach that allows bundling of construction and O&M of infrastructure and amenities.
- (v) Implementation through a single private partner to ensure simultaneous delivery of key infrastructure required in villages leading to optimal use of resources.
- (vi) Funding for projects under PURA scheme may come from four sources: mandatory schemes of Ministry of Rural Development(MoRD) and Ministry of Drinking Water and Supply, non-MoRD schemes, private financing and Capital Grant under PURA.
- (vii) Site selection by private partner on basis of socio-economic growth considerations.
- (viii) Agreement between Gram Panchayat and the private partner that facilitates empowerment of Gram Panchayats and public accountability.

(b): The restructured PURA scheme was approved on 21st January, 2010 for implementation under Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework and is in pilot mode. As per Scheme Guidelines, the Private Partner selected to undertake PURA projects, based on the pre-approved evaluation criteria of technical capability, shall identify a Gram Panchayat / a cluster of geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats for a population of about 25,000 – 40,000. Whereas the cluster would be the project area, there may be sub-projects to cover each of the Panchayats within the cluster. Alternatively, a large single Panchayat could individually provide critical mass to make the project viable. The cluster can also be in the nature of a census town or a non-municipal block headquarters or a rural cluster with a potential growth centre. In the pilot phase, the Private Partner is given the flexibility to identify and select the Gram Panchayat(s) for undertaking PURA projects based on their familiarity with the area or past experience of working at the grassroots level. In this identified PURA area, the Private Partner shall plan for the development / re-development of selected infrastructure services along with economic activities, after undertaking baseline studies.

(c): Two PURA pilot projects of the first set of 9 pilots were launched on 24th February 2012 at Thalikulam Panchayat (Thrissur District) and Thirurangadi panchayat (Malappuram District) of Kerala. The projects approved for implementation under the Scheme has a construction period of three years before the facilities are put to public use when the benefits accrue to rural people. The remaining 7 projects are under various stages of approval/appraisal. The list of the 9 projects are given in Annexure-I.

(d): The Twelfth Five Year Plan document has not yet been approved by the Planning Commission.