

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2264  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012  
BHARAT NIRMAN VOLUNTEER SCHEME  
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government has introduced Bharat Nirman Volunteers Scheme in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of location of State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and its functioning thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to bring awareness among the public about the welfare schemes available for the poor people?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Rural Development has taken-up a Lab-to-Land Initiative for enhancing the effectiveness of programme implementation through field level training of village based cadre of Bharat Nirman Volunteers. Every Bharat Nirman Volunteer is attached with a maximum of 40 village households for facilitating delivery of public services under various government programmes to eligible rural households. The volunteers would help in the organization of Gram Sabhas and preparation of Village Development Plan. They work on voluntary basis without any expectation of remuneration.

(c): At present, there are 28 State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) in the country. These are State Level Institutions undertaking training programmes for different stake holders including rural development functionaries and elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of community. The details of locations of SIRDs are given at Annexure.

(d): The Ministry of Rural Development spreads awareness among the public about the welfare schemes available for the poor people through a comprehensive Information, Education and Communication programme involving Print, Electronic, Outdoor & Emerging media. Information about the schemes of the Ministry is given to the rural people through Bharat Nirman Volunteers also.