

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2823
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013
VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEES
Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the working of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees set up at the district level for monitoring the schemes sponsored by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representations from various quarters to strengthen and delegate statutory powers to the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Rural Development has reviewed, from time to time, the functioning of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (VMCs) constituted at State and district levels to monitor/review the implementation of rural development schemes. It has been observed that these Committees have not been meeting as frequently as required. Prompt and effective follow-up action is also found deficient in some cases.

(c)&(d): The Government has received representations from Members of Parliament for empowering district level VMCs. The suggestions include the following:

- i. Enlarging the composition of the Committee;
- ii. Separate office and vehicle for the Chairman;
- iii. Empowering the Committee to select works/beneficiaries;
- iv. Empowering the Committee to take action against erring officials;
- v. Officials to accompany the Members of Parliament during inspections;
- vi. The Ministry may obtain Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the recommendations in the district level Meetings and take further follow up action, wherever required.

(e) The Ministry of Rural Development has advised all States to include Lead Bank Manager and Senior Superintendent/ Superintendent of the Postal Department in the district level Committee with a view to enable the Committee to effectively monitor the payment of wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) of the Ministry of Power have also been brought under the purview of the Committee for review. The Ministry has also informed all States that the Committee or a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Member of Parliament may undertake field visits/inspection of works taken up under various schemes reviewed by the VMC.