

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5868

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013

SELF HELP GROUPS UNDER NRLM

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to link one woman from every poor family across the country to Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihood Mission in the next five years;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to revise the operational guidelines for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to give the flexibility to the States;
- (d) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (e) the number of poor women members of SHGs till date, State-wise;
- (f) whether the aforesaid programme is for rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) households only; and
- (g) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to remove restriction between the BPL and poor and include more people under it?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in a mission mode in a phased manner for targeted and time bound delivery of results. It is the mandate of NRLM to ensure that at least one member from each identified rural poor household, preferably a woman, be brought under the Self Help Group (SHG) network in a time-bound manner, the ultimate target being full coverage of BPL families.

(c)&(d): The provisions in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are effected through Schemes formulated by States under Section 4(1) of the Act. Schedule-I of MGNREGA, as amended from time to time, lists the category of works that any Scheme prepared by a State Government under Section 4(1) of MGNREG Act shall focus upon. Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor is also an important objective of the Act. Based on the suggestions and feedback received from various stakeholders including State Governments, changes and modifications to the Schedule and guidelines are carried out from time to time and this is a continuous process. The operational guidelines have been revised recently. The list of activities at present included in Schedule-I of the Act is given in Annexure-I. Section 16(1) of MGNREGA provides that Gram Panchayats shall be responsible for identification of projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under the scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabhas. Section 13(1) of MGNREGA provides that the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under the Act.

(e): The data regarding exact number of poor women members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) is not maintained. However, as per the information provided by the States through the Monthly Progress Reports, out of 42,76,911 SHGs formed in the country, 28,36,677 SHGs are women SHGs. A statement indicating State-wise SHGs formed is annexed as Annexure II.

(f)&(g): Under NRLM, the target group is BPL households. A proposal has already been moved for finalising the target group based on the participatory identification of the poor process.