

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:704
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013
LIVELIHOOD OF FARMERS
Biswal Shri Hemanand

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures to improve the livelihood of farmers residing in drought hit areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State/Year-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Government is implementing the following major programmes:

(i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to ensure livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing at least 100 days of wage – employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The provisions in 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 upon. The following activities are allowed on land or homestead owned by households belonging to the small or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008;

- # Provision of irrigation facility, dug out farm pond, horticulture, plantation, farm bunding and land development;
- # Agriculture related works, such as, NADEP composting, vermin-composting, liquid bio-manures;
- # Livestock related works, such as, poultry shelter, goat shelter, construction of pucca floor, urine tank and fodder trough for cattle, azolla as cattle-feed supplement;
- # Works in coastal areas, such as, fish drying yards, belt vegetation;
- # Rural sanitation related works, such as, individual household latrines, school toilet units, anganwadi toilets, solid and liquid waste management;

The above works shall be taken up subject to the following conditions, namely:-

- (i) The households shall have the job card; and
- (ii) The beneficiaries shall work on the project undertaken on their land or homestead.

Additional employment beyond the stipulated 100 days and up to 150 days per rural household under MGNREGA may also be provided, on case to case basis, in special circumstances. Such kind of dispensation was allowed for the notified drought affected Talukas/ Blocks during FY 2012-13. The additional cost for such special dispensation is shared between the Centre and State as per the funding pattern given in Section 22 of the Act.

(ii) Integrated Watershed Management Programme INTEGRAT (IWMP)

The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three area development programmes viz. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) since 1995-96 on watershed basis. The above three programmes have been integrated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed/ degraded areas including wastelands. The programme is being implemented as per Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects-2008 (Revised Edition-2011). As per the Guidelines, 9% of the total project fund is earmarked for livelihood activities for asset less persons. The identification of type of activities to be taken up, selection of beneficiaries, their skill development etc. are done by the concerned State Level Nodal Agency for IWMP.

(iii) National Rural Livelihoods Mission –Aajeevika

Since 1999, the Government was implementing Swarnjayanti Gram SwarojgarYojana (SGSY) which has now been restructured as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) – renamed as Aajeevika. NRLM has been formally launched on 3rd June, 2011. The programme is being implemented across the country, including drought hit areas, in a mission mode in a phased manner for targeted and time bound delivery of results. NRLM works towards organising the rural poor, identified through a process of Participatory Identification of Poor (P.I.P) into institutions of the poor and empowering these institutions who, in turn, support their members in enhancing their income levels through improved and easy access to credit and their entitlements. SGSY has ceased to exist with effect from 01.04.2013.

Universal social mobilization through formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under NRLM will ensure at least one member of each rural poor family, preferably a woman member, is covered under SHG net. With a view to form strong people's institutions, NRLM focus on setting up of federations of SHGs from village panchayat to district levels. NRLM would ensure universal financial inclusion by facilitating opening of savings accounts of all its beneficiaries, simultaneously encouraging thrift and credit activities, facilitating access to credit from banks etc. 10% of allocation under the programme is utilized for training and capacity building of the intended beneficiaries to take up the micro enterprises for enhancing their incomes. In addition to the self – employment, the programme also focus on supporting rural poor youth for accessing skilled wage employment through placement linked skill development projects.

One of the components of NRLM is to set up at least one Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in each district of the country in collaboration with the Public Sector Banks (PSB) and the State Governments to provide skill training to the rural BPL youth to enable them to take up self employment or wage employment. The RSETIs' core strength is short term residential training with long handholding support. In few instances, the RSETIs also offer off-site training at village/block levels. RSETIs offer training in more than 65 vocations classified under agriculture, process, product and general Entrepreneur- ship Development Programme. Since the RSETIs are run by the PSBs, it is expected that the Banks will provide necessary credit support to the beneficiaries for setting up micro-enterprises. As on 31.3.2013, 552 RSETIs are functioning across the country. During the year 2012-13, against a target of training 2,00,000 beneficiaries, 2,14,363 beneficiaries were trained by institutes graded B and above. State wise bank wise targets for the 2013-14 have been fixed at 2,55,200. During the year 2013-14, banks have been asked to give special focus on settlement of beneficiaries with bank credit which would be monitored closely.

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) was announced in the budget of 2010-11 as a sub-component of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) to meet the specific needs of women farmers and achieve socio-economic and technical empowerment of the rural women farmers, predominantly small and marginal farmers. There is no specific allocation for drought hit areas under MKSP. However, one of the necessary conditions for the project approval under MKSP is that the project is innovative and covers vulnerable areas like ecologically fragile, rain fed, drought and flood prone areas.

Another component of NRLM is Placement Linked Skill Development under which Government is providing placement linked skill development training to rural BPL youth. Under this programme, training and placement is provided as per demand for jobs in various sectors of the economy such as textiles, organized retail, construction, IT and hardware industry etc.

(d) MGNREGA is a demand driven wage employment programme under which no State-wise allocation of fund is made. Central funds are released to the States/Union Territories/Districts on the basis of agreed to Labour Budget. The central funds released to the States during the previous three financial years and the current financial year 2013-14 is given in Annexure I. The funds released under IWMP during the last three years and the current year is given in Annexure II. The State-wise and Year-wise funds allocated under SGSY/NRLM are given in Annexure III. Further, a statement indicating assistance approved from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are given in Annexure IV.