

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:219
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013
STRENGTHENING OF VMCS
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha)

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (VMCs) constituted to monitor the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcomes thereof;
- (c) the details of representations received from various sections by the Government to strengthen the vigilance and monitoring committees and provide them constitutional powers; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the VMCs?

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. The Standing Committee on Rural Development also reviewed the functioning of the VMCs. The Ministry of Rural Development has submitted the Action Taken Report on the recommendation made by the Standing Committee.

(c) The suggestions included in the representations received from various sections for strengthening VMCs are as follows:

- 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. Official 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.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to strengthen the VMCs include the following:

- (i) The Convener Bank of State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) would be a special invitee to the State Level VMC meetings;
- (ii) Programmes of Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) of Ministry of Power have been included for review by district level VMCs;
- (iii) Time lines have been prescribed for issue of meeting notice, agenda notes and proceedings of the meetings and for follow up action on recommendations of the VMCs so that the VMCs could monitor the programmes effectively;
- (iv) Procedure has been prescribed for facilitating better coordination with State Governments and the nodal Central Ministries.