

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:344

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009

NIRMAL GRAM PURASKAR SCHEME

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Hansrajbhai Shri Radadiya Vitthalbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding improper implementation of the Nirmal Gram Puraskar Scheme;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct a review of the scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the gap between the targets set and achieved under the scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard for promotion of sanitation in the villages?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(DR. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 344 for reply on 14.12.2009

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): The complaints relate to non-eligibility of Gram Panchayats (GPs) that have been awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) in 2008 and non-selection of eligible GPs for the NGP in 2009. Action has been taken regarding these complaints and review of NGP scheme is not required.

(d): There are no targets for NGP. All the Gram Panchayats are encouraged to meet the criteria of Nirmal Gram in order to be eligible for the award. Details of the number of awardees during the last three years, state wise, are annexed.

(e): Total Sanitation Campaign administered by Government of India emphasizes generation of demand for sanitation facilities through Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) and a community led approach, as past experience shows that mere construction of toilets is not sufficient for achieving sanitation coverage. In order to address the needs of areas with high water table, low water availability, very cold regions, coastal and flood prone areas, different design options for toilets are promoted by the Department. In hilly and difficult areas, the central incentive for BPL households for construction of individual household toilets is Rs.500 higher than for other areas. Convergence is sought to be achieved with other flagship programmes of Government of India such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Scheme etc. Extensive school sanitation and hygiene education programme is being implemented. Training and capacity building has been taken up for grassroots workers, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) etc. Also, Information, Education & Communication (IEC), activities are supported under the programme.