

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2007

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015

Improvement in Rural Life

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the major issues highlighted about the Ministry in the 12th Five Year Plan to bring about much needed whole some improvement in the life of rural people;
- (b) whether his Ministry has incorporated and integrated the points highlighted in the 12th Plan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is any monitoring cell to oversee that his Ministry is moving in tandem with the 12th Five Year Plan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (c): The 12th Five Year Plan aims at faster, more inclusive and sustainable growth. Various initiatives have been proposed in the 12th Five Year Plan on rural development programmes so as to improve the quality of life of rural people. These include expansion of list of permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA); strengthening the demand-driven character of MGNREGA; reducing delay in wage payments; better social audits, Vigilance and Grievance Redressal; modification in the guidelines of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) to make it more effective and sustainable; supporting rural youth for skill development and placement; enhancement of unit cost assistance under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY); smoother transfer of fund to States and connecting villages with all weather road.

The steps taken by the Ministry in this direction are:

- (i) New works have been added to the existing list of permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA with a focus on strengthening synergy between MGNREGA and rural livelihoods, particularly in agriculture.
- (ii) Participatory bottom-up planning for the preparation of Labour Budget is done under MGNREGA.
- (iii) To reduce delay in the payment of wages the Ministry has initiated Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS)
- (iv) The guidelines of the NRLM was amended for improved targeting of beneficiaries by identifying the target group through a process of Participatory Identification of Poor (P.I.P). The NRLM is being implemented in a phased manner to cover all the blocks in the country over a period of 7 – 8 years;
- (v) The issue of skilling and placement are being addressed through Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs).
- (vi) The unit cost assistance under IAY has been enhanced to Rs.70,000 for new construction in plain areas and Rs. 75,000 in hilly/difficult areas including IAP districts.
- (vii) The PMGSY permits upgradation (to prescribed standards) of existing rural roads in districts where all the eligible habitations of the designated population size have been provided all weather road connectivity.
- (viii) PMGSY-II has been launched to consolidate the existing rural road network.
- (ix) To improve the impact of rural development programmes, steps have been taken for the convergence of rural development programmes within the Ministry and with the programmes of other Ministries/ Departments.

(d) & (e): The Ministry has put in place a comprehensive monitoring mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of various programmes. An Economic & Monitoring Wing has been set up in the Ministry which carries out intensive monitoring of the programmes through various tools such as holding periodical review meetings, National Level Monitors (NLMs) and undertakes various evaluation and impact studies. District and State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees are an important instrument of monitoring the implementation of programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. MIS systems are also in place for monitoring rural development programmes.
