

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2291  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014  
KNOWLEDGE SUPPORT TO RURAL SECTOR  
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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the measures proposed to be taken to provide knowledge support to the rural sector so as to enable it to usher in a self-reliant, self-sufficient and self-governed society;
- (b) the locations identified, for implementing the policy, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken to impart training to youth in rural areas in such branches of learning which can promote casteless society and to provide them facilities to engage in research and development and to develop knowledge in various fields?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) to (b): The Ministry of Rural Development has established institutional structures at National, State and Regional levels in the form of National Institute of Rural Development(NIRD), 28 State Institutes of Rural Development(SIRDs) and 89 Extension Training Centres(ETCs) for imparting knowledge and other competencies to the various stakeholders at different levels of rural development administration. These institutions are also envisaged to create knowledge on various facets of rural development through research and action research. Also,Rural Technology Park has been established at NIRD, Hyderabad to disseminate various rural technologies. Exposure visits are organized to the Technology Park in order to create awareness among the youth on the technologies and to provide skill based programmes in their areas of interest for taking up self-employment and for creating /enhancing livelihoods among the youth.

In order to provide knowledge support to the rural sector, an initiative, namely, 'Rural Housing Knowledge Network (RHKN)' was launched in July, 2012 in collaboration with IIT, Delhi with the objective of compiling a comprehensive nationwide repository of practitioners, institutions and practices related to affordable and sustainable solutions for rural housing and to develop a multi-lingual web portal in the public domain. The project has six specific deliverables, namely, compendium of professionals and institutions, comprehensive technology profiles on design, best cases of implementation of rural housing projects, good/universally accepted practices and innovations, a web portal and learning exchanges. The URL of the website is [www.ruralhousingnetwork.in](http://www.ruralhousingnetwork.in). It is an interactive platform developed with and used by various stakeholders in rural housing.

(c): National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) is being implemented across the country in a mission mode in a phased manner for reducing poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities through various measures including enhancement of skills. This will enable poor households to have meaningful livelihoods thereby inducing self-sufficiency and self-reliance. The Government is setting up Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), one in each district of the country, for basic and skill development training of the rural poor youth to enable them to undertake micro enterprises and 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. 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.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also provides training to rural youth through its research institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras in scientific practices of agriculture.