

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4107
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2014
RURAL DEVELOPMENT MAJOR ISSUES
De(Nag) Dr. (Smt.) Ratna

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the Major points highlighted about the Ministry in the 12th Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether the Ministry has incorporated and integrated those points in its programmes and schemes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

Answer

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

(a) : Ministry of Rural Development, inter alia, is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) in rural areas of the country, as a part of overall planning process through State Governments and UT Administrations. The objective of these programmes is to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life in rural areas through employment generation, development of rural infrastructure and provision of other basic amenities.

The major points highlighted about the Ministry in the Twelfth Five Year Plan are:

(i) Expanding the scope of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA; (ii) Preparation of realistic labour budget under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA; (iii) Awareness generation about the programmes among the potential beneficiaries; (iv) Reducing delay in wage payments under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA; (v) Convergence and collaborations of rural development programmes with the programmes of other Departments /Ministries; (vi) Adoption of phased intensive approach under NRLM; (vii) Skill Development and Placement under NRLM; (viii) Strengthening the package of credit-cum-technology support to strengthen rural livelihoods (ix) Enhancement of unit cost assistance under IAY; (x) Improving quality of IAY Houses; (xi) Thrust on up-gradation of rural road infrastructure with the objective of improving mobility and accessibility while reducing the cost of transportation; (xii) Special package for development of roads in the Schedule Areas under Tribal Sub Plan; and (xiii) Launching of PMGSY-II (xiv) Reforming IWMP to ensure momentum to the programme (xv) Training and capacity building under NLRMP (xvi) Improvement in Management Information System (MIS) of the programmes

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Most of the issues highlighted in the Twelfth Five Year Plan have been addressed in the implementation strategy of the rural development programmes being implemented by this Ministry. The steps taken in this regard are as under:

(i) New works have been added to the existing list of permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA with a focus on strengthening synergy between Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and rural livelihoods, particularly in agriculture.

(ii) Participatory bottom-up planning for the preparation of Labour Budget is done under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. (iii) The Information Education and Communication (IEC) strategy of the Ministry aims at dissemination of various provisions under different rural development schemes. Beyond raising awareness, interventions at interpersonal level are also extended to ensure that individuals are able to convert their awareness into action and benefit from the schemes. (iv) To reduce delay in the payment of wages the Ministry has initiated Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS), Expenditure Based Fund Release System (e-FRS) and use of Business Correspondent Model to ensure payment of wages to Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers at their door steps.

(v) To improve the impact of rural development programmes and to bring in synergy in order to holistically address the multiple dimensions of poverty in a sustainable manner, the Ministry has converged its programmes within the Ministry and with the programmes of other Ministries/ Departments.

(vi) NRLM being a highly process oriented programme requiring high level of social and financial capital, the programme would be implemented in a phased manner following an intensive approach.

(vii) The issue of skilling and placement are being addressed through Aajeevika- Skills and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs).

(viii) NRLM has initiated steps towards a systematic engagement with the banking sector to facilitate credit linkage of Self Help Groups (SHGs). (ix) 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 LWE districts.

(x) The guidelines of the IAY provide for monitoring of construction of IAY houses with respect to use of appropriate cost-effective technology, selection of design and materials for construction, quality of workmanship to ensure longevity and user comfort, etc. (xi) 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. (xii) 2% of programme funds available under PMGSY excluding 10% of Budget Estimate committed for North East States has been separately earmarked for Scheduled Tribe Areas in the current Financial Year. (xiii) PMGSY-II has been launched to consolidate the existing rural road network. (xiv) With the various measures taken by the Ministry, the implementation of IWMP has improved. (xv) With a view to impart comprehensive training to the Revenue, Survey, Registration and other officials involved in implementation of the NLRMP, funds have been provided to the States /UTs for creation of NLRMP Cells. (xvi) The implementation strategy of e-governance for various programmes of the Ministry has made a significant shift from modular MIS systems to work flow driven internet enabled platforms with possibility for convergence.