

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2505
ANSWERED ON 03/08/2021

COMPLAINTS OF IRREGULARITIES UNDER PMAY-G IN ODISHA

2505. SHRI SURESH PUJARI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding large scale irregularities in implementation of the Prime Minister Awas Yojna- Grameen (PMAY-G) in the State of Odisha, if so, the details thereof along with the enquiry conducted by the Government to find out the truth thereof;
- (b) if so, the report thereof along with its follow ups and the finding in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government would take the responsibility to go for a full scale enquiry to find out all faults and irregularities, get it corrected and ensure that the pro poor ambitious scheme of the Government is not derailed in Odisha; and
- (d) the details of action including criminal action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the culprit officials in the irregularities caused willingly and deliberately?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

- (a) Yes Sir. A joint representation by 9 hon'ble Members of Parliament alleging certain irregularities in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in Odisha was received. The major irregularities pointed out were:
 - i. 85% of the 12.85 lakh PMAY-G beneficiaries in Odisha are ineligible for the Scheme and majority of funds have been mis-utilised for personal gains.
 - ii. Multiple members of the same family have been granted houses under the scheme and families whose applications were rejected in 2018-19 have been allotted houses in 2019-20.
 - iii. No mention of the Scheme as "Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin", a Central scheme at the ground level.
 - iv. The State Government has not made any budgetary provision under PMAY-G for last three years.
 - v. The Central Government had sanctioned PMAY-G Assistance for 3.89 lakh houses damaged by cyclone "Fani" and that large irregularities have been reported in selection of beneficiaries in this category.
 - vi. A list of 831 ineligible beneficiaries having been allocated houses under PMAY-G was shared.

In another complaint, it was alleged that the logo of Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY) is being affixed on the PMAY-G houses and the size of (BPGY) logo is bigger than that of PMAY-G. It was also alleged that the houses constructed under PMAY-G are being shown as houses constructed under BPGY.

(b) The complaint was forwarded to the State Government of Odisha for enquiring and status report. The State Government of Odisha had submitted the following report:

- i. that out of 775 ineligible beneficiaries in FANI affected districts alleged to have been identified as eligible in Awaas+, registration, geo-tagging and aadhaar seeding have been completed in respect of 79 eligible beneficiaries. The remaining 696 from the list were not found eligible and therefore their names were not registered in Awaas+.
- ii. that out of 56 PMAY-G beneficiaries alleged to be irregularly selected, 39 have been sanctioned houses. Irregularities in selection were detected in 4 cases for which the Collector, Khurda has placed Rabindra Kumar Panda, PEO Begunia Block under suspension and FIR has also been lodged against three villagers for involvement in illegal selection. Recovery proceedings of paid amount have already been initiated.
- iii. in respect of allegation for not making budgetary provision under PMAY-G, there is no pendency in drawal of matching State Share and the state has always made adequate budgetary provision.
- iv. in respect of allegation of attempt by the State to rename the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), no such attempt has ever been made. State Government had decided to Co-Brand the PMAY-G houses by affixing logo of both PMAY-G and BPGY as State also invests 40% as matching State Share under PMAY-G.

(c) & (d) The Ministry had also constituted a Central Team which visited the State during 9th -11th February 2021 to conduct inquiry and the Team has submitted its report. The major findings of the report are lack of PMAY-G logo, poor quality of construction, incomplete houses shown as completed in MIS of the PMAY-G Scheme, houses sanctioned to ineligible beneficiaries, etc.

On the basis of the findings of the report of the Central Team, the Ministry has requested the State Government of Odisha to take following actions immediately to ensure that perpetrators of the fraud and their collaborators are dealt with sternly and submit Action Taken Report (ATR) at the earliest.

- i. FIR be filed against the erring officials immediately
- ii. Action be taken against the BDO, the second signatory of the FTOs and other supervisors who would have certified and inspected the works
- iii. Show cause be served against the concerned district officials for not taking timely stern action against the erring officials
- iv. The state government to widely publicise the action taken in the matter including on social media
- v. The state government may tone up its administrative machinery so that such incidences are not repeated in future.

The State Government of Odisha has submitted the Action Taken Report on the findings of the report of the Central Team to the Ministry of Rural Development vide letter dated 20.07.2021. The ATR of the State is being examined and suitable action would be taken after the approval of the competent authority.
