

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:101
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2003
RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether despite increasing the financial provisions the Government has been losing control over a host of schemes aimed at upgrading the rural sector as mentioned in the `Statesman` dated 15.9.2003;
- (b) Whether the funds meant for rural development schemes are underutilized/diverted by State Governments;
- (c) if so, the facts, the details and the reasons therefor State-wise; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure implementation of various rural development schemes effectively?

Answer

ANSWER MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to(d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. Statement referred in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question Number 101 due for Answer on 09.12.2003.

The report appearing in the Statesman dated 15.09.2003 is not based on facts. The Government have instituted an in- built monitoring mechanism in the guidelines of each Scheme so as to ensure that the objectives of the scheme are achieved by their implementation.

2. The percentage utilisation of funds to total allocation during the period 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 was 89%, 93%, 82% and 106% respectively. As per the guidelines of Rural Development Programmes, the States/UTs can also carry forward 15% of the total allocation to the following financial year.

3. With a view to ensuring that the benefits of the rural development schemes reach the targeted persons, the Ministry has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of the programmes, including utilization of funds, through mechanisms such as periodic review meetings by the Minister of Rural Development with State authorities, visits to the field by officers of the Ministry of Rural Development (Area Officers Scheme), meetings of the Performance Review Committee, Periodic Progress Reports from State Government, Concurrent and Quick Evaluation of Programmes etc. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State and District levels has been reconstituted recently with greater role for Members of Parliament. Other monitoring initiative includes District Level Monitoring for verification of assets and verification of programme implementation by National Level Monitors.