

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1642
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2005
EVALUATION OF SGSY
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted concurrent performance evaluation of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana and assessed the impact of the programme;
- (b) if so, the details of main findings of the concurrent evaluation
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of SGSY and make it poor friendly;
- (d) whether there is a need to enhance the training and marketing facilities for swarozgaris; and
- (e) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a): Yes, Sir. A concurrent evaluation of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yozana (SGSY) was carried out in 2002-03 for evaluating the performance of SGSY from the year 1999- 2000 to 2001-02.

(b): As per the evaluation, the SGSY has been generally successful in providing economic empowerment to the poor, especially women. In most of the groups, the savings are regular. SHG members have improved their general awareness and knowledge, with the groups taking responsibility to ensure proper implementation of the scheme. The rural women seem to have benefited most from the scheme. Involvement in SGSY has contributed in improving their confidence in managing the finances of their families, improving their ability to communicate, enhancing their capacity to protest against social evils and swarozgaris appear to be more in control of their lives and are in a stronger position vis a vis their family members. Delay in disbursement of loans from the banks to Swarozgaris, lack of training and inadequate marketing support has also been pointed out in the report.

(c): The Ministry has a regular system for analyzing/assessing the progress of the programme in terms of financial and physical and identifying reasons for lack of adequate progress. Efforts are made to systematically address the problem areas where bottlenecks are needed to be eliminated. The programme is monitored at various levels. At the Central level, the Central Level Co-ordination Committee (CLCC) monitors and reviews the implementation of the scheme and lays down policy guidelines for all aspects relating to the credit linkages for the SGSY. At the State level, a State Level SGSY Committee monitors the programme.

State Governments have been advised to hold regular meetings of SGSY Committees at different levels as per frequency prescribed under guidelines to ensure proper and effective implementation of programme. Regular participation of bankers in these meetings has been emphasized to ensure adequate credit mobilization for the poor beneficiaries. An intensive awareness campaign has been launched through print/electronic media with the active involvement of the district/block officials and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to educate rural people about the benefits of the scheme.

(d) & (e): SGSY Guidelines provides for a number of measures for upgrading the capacity of Swarozgaris both in individual as well as group oriented activities. Swarozgaris who need additional skill development/upgradation of skills, suitable training programmes are being organized by Government Institutions like Engineering Colleges, Industrial Training Institutes, Polytechnics, Universities and NGOs. With regard to enhancing marketing facilities for Swarozgaris, 12 regional SARAS Fairs besides India International Trade Fair (IITF) SARAS 2004 were organized to encourage the sale of products made by Swarozgaris during 2004-05. During the current year i.e. 2005-06, the Ministry has organized 12 such fairs in different parts of the country besides the annual IITF SARAS 2005. An amount of Rs.5.00 lakhs annually may be spent from the SGSY fund by District Rural Development Agencies on marketing research, value addition, product diversification etc. to facilitate marketing of produce by swarozgaris.