

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3640
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2005
CONSULTATION ON RURAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a 3-day national consultation on empowering livelihood was held recently to discuss the concerns relating to rural economy and development with a focus on over 300 million people living below poverty line in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme with the help of British Government is implementing this programme in six States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted in selecting the States; and
- (e) the reasons for not including Telengana Region of Andhra Pradesh in the above programme?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) The Ministry of Rural Development did not hold any National Consultation on empowering livelihood in the recent past.
- (c) to (e): As per information furnished by the Department of Economic Affairs, the Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme is being implemented in various States of India under the funding by Department For International Development (DFID), Government of U.K. Currently the programme is spread across in six States in India i.e. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The PACS is an NGO Programme directly funded by DFID and the criteria adopted in selecting the States or the project or the NGO rests with DFID.