

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1449  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2006  
NATIONAL LEVEL MONITORS .  
Jindal Shri Naveen

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government has made a panel of National Level Monitors (NLMs) in the Ministry of Rural Development;
- (b) If so, the number of NLMs at present and their terms and conditions;
- (c) The nature of work assigned to them;
- (d) The number of districts visited by NLMs so far; and
- (e) The salient features highlighted by them in their reports and the action taken thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. There are 250 National Level Monitors (NLMs) engaged by the Ministry of Rural Development for monitoring of rural development programmes of Ministry of Rural Development. The major terms and conditions of the NLMs are attached at Annexure – I.

The NLMs are sent to the districts for monitoring of all rural development programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. They are also deputed to verify facts with reference to specific and serious complaints received in the Ministry of Rural Development.

The number of districts visited by the NLMs in various round of their regular visits are as under:-

S. No.	Round of visit	No. of districts visited
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1.	Ist Round during July,03 to September , 03	140
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2.	2nd Round (August,04 to October,04)	139
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3.	3rd Round (January,05 to March, 05)	120
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4.	4th & 5th Round (May,05 to August, 05)	227
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5.	6th Round (December,05 to February,06)	235
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In addition, 131 districts were visited by NLMs to verify facts with reference to the complaints received in the Ministry.

The salient features highlighted by NLMs in their reports are given at Annexure-II. The compilation of NLMs reports are sent to the States. The findings and observations of the NLMs are used in modification of guidelines, procedures and review of policies and programmes in addition to strict vigilance and monitoring of all programmes. These are also discussed in Regional Workshops, seminars and conferences where NLMs, representatives of Central Government and State Governments take part. States are requested to take action on the findings of NLMs reports. It has been decided that a copy of the report of NLM about regular visits to the district be sent to the Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee of the District concerned so that the Committee can be apprised of the findings.

#### Annexure- I

Annexure- I as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1449 for reply on 4.8.2006 Major Terms and Conditions for National Level Monitors ( NLMs) The Major Terms and Conditions for National Level Monitors (NLMs) include the following :-

- i) NLMs are retired Defence Officers of the rank of Major and above or retired Civil Officers of the rank of Under Secretary and above.
- ii) After their empanelment Orientation Workshops were organized for the NLMs through which they were briefed about the rural development programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. They are also briefed about the new initiatives of the Ministry from time to time.
- iii) They have been empanelled for monitoring of rural development Schemes of this Ministry as and when required by this Ministry. They are allotted districts for such visits from time to time.
- iv) They visit the field areas and submit their monitoring reports which contains information on the implementation of all rural development programmes of this Ministry in terms of physical and financial aspects. Physical verification of the works is also done during the field visits. The NLMs are also required to focus their report on the actual implementation process with special reference to the compliance with or deviation from the programme guidelines.
- v) Before each Round of their visits they are provided with a set of Key Indicators relating to various Rural Development Programmes and the NLMs are required to conduct the monitoring visits especially with reference to these Key Indicators. They are also provided a format for reporting financial / physical performance of these programmes.
- vi) NLMs may spend at least two to three days in Block. They need not cover all the Blocks or Schemes on one visit. Their visit should be intensive and qualitative aspects may be brought out. The NLMs may take upto two to three Blocks in a district on a visit.
- vi) (a) During the monitoring visit to the district, NLMs are required to visit at least 10 villages. They are to ensure that the villages visited by the Area Officers of the Ministry of Rural Development are avoided to see that the same villages are not repeated by the monitors.
- vii) NLMs are advised to conduct an impartial and objective review of the implementation of the programmes and to express their view freely in the Monitoring Report.
- viii) NLMs are also required to look into the various specific and serious complaints regarding implementation of programme as and when required by this Ministry. In such cases normally tours upto 4 (four) days in a district are permitted.
- ix) They are paid TA/Incidental charges, other charges, Contingency charges etc. as per guidelines of the Ministry of Rural Development in this regard.

#### Annexure- II

Annexure- II as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1449 for reply on 4.8.2006

Salient features highlighted by the NLMs in their reports:

Salient features highlighted by the NLMs based on their visits to the District include the following:

- i) Programmes like Indira Awaas Yojana, Swajaldhara, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana etc. are very popular amongst the rural masses and a large number of rural populations including SC/ST get the benefit out of all rural development programmes.
- ii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions is evident in selection of beneficiaries under various schemes.
- iii) There are some cases where the programmes are not implemented strictly as per guidelines.
- iv) Maintenance of documents needs improvement in some districts.
- v) Ground water level improved in many districts due to Watershed Programmes.
- vi) Water quality problem needs to be addressed in some areas.
- vii) Rural Development Programmes has enhanced the standard of living of many rural communities.
- viii) Self Help Group movement especially of women improved considerably – has led to confidence building and empowerment.
- ix) In some cases irregularities have also been observed.