

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1621

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2006

RESTRUCTURING OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Union Government has decided to restructure/revamp all schemes dealing with rural development by merging them ;
- (b) If so, whether the Government has received any requests from certain States in this regard ;
- (c) If so, the details thereof alongwith the name of such schemes ;
- (d) Whether any new guidelines in this regard have been issued ;
- (e) If so, the details thereof ;
- (f) The time by which these schemes are to be revamped ; and
- (g) The steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that the funds allocated to the States through the various programmes/schemes are actually spent for the purpose for which they are allocated ?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) The various schemes of this Ministry are reviewed from time to time and revamped/restructured depending upon findings of impact evaluation studies, suggestions of other Departments, public representatives etc. On the basis of the suggestions made by the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Rural Development had earlier undertaken a Zero Based Budgeting exercise after which the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) and Annapurna Scheme were transferred to the State Governments. With effect from September, 2001, the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) have been restructured into a single wage employment Scheme, viz., Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).

The Ministry has not received any specific request from the State Governments for restructuring of any programme. However, with effect from 2nd February, 2006, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has come into operation in 200 selected districts of the country which includes 150 districts where National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) was in operation which has now been discontinued. The wage employment programme of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has also been subsumed with the NREGA in these 200 districts and it is proposed to extend the NREGA to all the districts of the country in the next four years. The detailed guidelines for implementation of NREGA have already been issued.

(g) With a view to ensure that funds allotted are properly utilized, the Ministry of Rural Development has put in place a comprehensive multi-level and multi-tool system of monitoring and evaluation of the programmes which includes Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District Levels with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors to monitor quality of work, adherence to programme guidelines and Monthly Progress Reports of Rural Development Programmes through on-line system. The State Governments have also been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of

- (i) creation of awareness about the schemes,
- (ii) transparency,
- (iii) people's participation,
- (iv) accountability – social audit through Gram Sabha and
- (v) strict vigilance & monitoring of all schemes.