

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:484

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2006

EVALUATION OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES SCHEMES

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government has evaluated the reasons for low achievements of Poverty Alleviation/Employment Oriented Programmes/Schemes; and

(b) If so, the findings thereof alongwith the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the shortcoming ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of schemes namely the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) and area development programmes like Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme

(DDP) etc. for poverty alleviation/ employment generation in rural areas of the country. The Ministry has evaluated SGSY, IAY and SGRY etc, through independent research organizations located in various parts of the country. The findings of evaluation studies in general have revealed positive achievements like employment generated, increase in income, coverage of SC/STs and women, improvement in their skill and social status etc. The major areas of concern, which require remedial steps include lack of coordination, inadequate assistance, lack of credit flow, bottlenecks in marketing of products of Self Help Groups/Swarajgaris, shortage of staff at the field level, limited time available for implementation due to natural calamities and elections of the public representatives etc.

The findings of such evaluation of studies have been communicated to the State Governments to take remedial measures in respect of shortcomings in the implementation process. On the basis of findings of evaluation studies as well, the Government has taken number of steps improve the efficacy of these programmes like redesigning of wage employment programmes of SGRY into NREGP increase in assistance under IAY, more emphasis on skill development, allowing DRDAs to have professional staff on contract basis, assistance in development of marketing infrastructure for products of Self Help Groups/ Swarajgaris and strict vigilance and monitoring of the programmes.