

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:41

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2006

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER NREGA

Channappa Shri Kunnur Manjunath;Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the districts where the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(NREGA) has been launched as on date and those to be covered thereunder, State-wise;
- (b) whether any periodic review of the scheme under the Act has been undertaken;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the success achieved thereunder in comparison to the targets in each State;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that the funds made available to the States under the scheme have not been utilized fully since its inception;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken for cent-per-cent utilization of the funds and for effective monitoring under the Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part

(a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.41 to be answered on 24.11.2006

(a) In accordance with Section 1(3) of NREG Act, the Act shall be applicable to all districts in the country within a period of five years. NREGA was launched in 200 identified districts in the country on 2.2.2006. A State-wise list of these 200 districts is at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Periodic review meetings have been undertaken by Minister of Rural Development and Secretary(Rural Development) from time to time.

(i) Union Minister, Rural Development made three suo-motu statements on the implementation and progress of NREG Act in both the houses of Parliament. In Lok Sabha the statements were made on 3rd March, 2006, 23rd May, 2006 and 25th August, 2006. In Rajya Sabha the statements were made on 8th March, 23rd May, 2006 and 25th August, 2006.

(ii) Review meeting with State Secretaries by Minister in Delhi on 12th/13th May,2006

(iii) State specific reviews by Minister in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir in May-June, 2006

(iv) Minister of Rural Development participated in the Social Audit in Andhra Pradesh in the month of September, 2006.

(v) Regional review meetings by Minister at Delhi on 26.9.06 of Northern region and at Kolkata on 12th/13th September, 2006 of Eastern region.

(vi) Review of Kerala and North Eastern States by Secretary in September, 2006.

(vii) Meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council was held on 27.9.06 and a thorough review of NREGA was undertaken.

(viii) Performance Review Committee meeting of Southern and Western region at Delhi on 9.10.06.

(ix) Conference of Project Directors,DRDA, at Delhi on 16-17,October,2006.

(x) Meeting with State Secretaries and District Programme Coordinators on NREGA held on 1.11.06.

(xi) Minister(RD) and Secretary(RD) also reviewed performance of NREGA of States at State Headquarters.

(xii) Minister of Rural Development will also present Annual Report on NREGA as required under Section 11(1)(f) of the Act during the current financial year.

NREGA is a demand-driven programme. Every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work is entitled for at least 100 days of work in a financial year on demand. Hence, no targets can be fixed under NREGA. However, under the scheme all rural households that have demanded employment are being provided employment and to this effect a large number of works have been taken up. So far 415910 total works have been taken up to provide employment of which 188035 relate to water conservation, 30631 relate to drought proofing and plantation, 8248 for flood control, 105558 for rural connectivity and 78270 relate to other works. So far 37.56 crore mandays have been generated of which 23.67% are SCs, 40.46% STs and 39.26% women. State-wise achievement under the scheme may be seen at Annexure-II.

In some States the programme had a late start due to elections. Legislative Assembly elections were held in five States, namely, Tamilnadu, Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal and Assam. Bye-elections were held in Meghalaya. In addition, Bihar also had Panchayat elections. The on-set of rains has also affected the progress of the programme.

(e) to (g) : NREG Act provides a legal guarantee of 100 days of employment in a financial year to a worker on demand. Work is to be provided within 15 days of the demand and wages are to be paid to the workers within a fortnight. Thus, availability of funds with the districts is required to be ensured at all times. So far 1,11,10,946 households have demanded employment. In order to fulfil the guarantee of 100 days of employment, districts have to be equipped with sufficient funds so that employment is provided within 15 days of demand and work started and payment made within a fortnight. Regular monitoring is done. So far 137 National Level Monitors and 29 Area Officers of the Ministry have visited various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. C&AG has been requested for special performance audit.