

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1755
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009
CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE COUNCIL
Hassan Dr. Monazir ;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the mandate entrusted to the Central Employment Guarantee Council;
- (b) the details of suggestions/recommendations made by the said Council since its inception for effective implementation of the schemes meant for rural development; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a): Section 10(1) of NREGA provides for constitution of the Central Employment Guarantee Council. The Council shall perform and discharge the following functions and duties, namely:

1. Establish a central evaluation and monitoring system ;
2. Advise the central government on all matters concerning the implementation of this act;
3. Review the monitoring and redressal mechanism from time to time & recommend improvements required;
4. Promote the widest possible dissemination of information about the schemes made under this act
5. Monitoring and implementation of this act
6. Preparation of annual reports to be laid before Parliament by the Central Government on the implementation this act
7. Any other duty of function as may be assign to it by the Central Government.

(b): The suggestions made by the members of the Central Council mainly relate to intensification of IEC activities for awareness generation, positioning of adequate staff at all levels alongwith their training, strengthening social audit and grievance redressal system, convergence of NREGA with other Rural Development programmes, enhancement of administrative expenses, review of NREGA guidelines, setting up of District Ombudsman and evaluation of NREGA.

(c) : In order to implement the suggestions/ recommendations made by the members of Central Council in its various meetings held so far, the Ministry has taken the following steps:-

(i) Administrative expenditure limit under NREGA has been enhanced from 4% to 6% to meet the expenditure on IEC activities and for deployment of dedicated staff with the implementing agencies.

(ii) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued by the Ministry directing all State Governments to set up District Ombudsman for redressal of grievances in a time- bound manner.

(iii) Social Audit instructions have been notified vide Notification dated 31.12.2008.

(iv) Guidelines have been issued for convergence of NREGS with Rural Development programmes of Ministries of Environment & Forests, Agriculture, Water Resources, Departments of Land Resources, programmes of Department of Rural Development such as PMGSY and SGSY.

(v) Evaluation study of NREGA has been commissioned to NSSO.