

Scope of NREGS works in coastal areas

408. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the scope of undertaking National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) works is limited in the case of coastal areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to change the list of permissible works to suit the peculiar conditions in the coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The issue of inclusion of more works in the list of permissible works under NREGA is under examination.

Indira Awas Yojana

409. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to increase the target of Rural Housing under 'Indira Awas Yojana'; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) During the 'Bharat Nirman' period from 2005-06 to 2008-09, 60 lakh houses were envisaged to be constructed under IAY. It has now been proposed to double this figure and to construct 120 lakh houses during next five year's period starting from the current year 2009-10. The physical target for the current year is for construction of 40.52 lakh houses.

Study report on NREGA

410. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to study by think tanks National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Public Interest Foundation (PIF) has found many flaws plaguing UPA Government's flagship National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) including funds not reaching its intended beneficiaries;

(b) if so, whether the cases of corruption, fudging in muster rolls, discrepancies in work days and payments have been reported in almost all studies of NCAER-PIF; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove difficulties pointed out in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The study report of NCAER-PIF has been examined in the Ministry and it is

noticed that the report does not reflect any original estimate of survey done by the organization. It refers to selective portions of studies conducted by various other institutions *e.g.* Centre for Environment and Food Security (CEFS) and organizations that may differ in time frame and survey methodology. The findings of CEFS report has been got verified by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. In most of the cases the findings were not found true. The study conducted by NCAER-PIF mainly highlights the findings of the CAG report on the performance audit conducted by CAG which was for the period 2006-07, the first year of the NREGA implementation. The CAG report has been examined in this Ministry. This report does not highlight any cases of data manipulation. However, the report has mainly focused on the procedural gaps and record maintenance by the implementing agencies because of inadequate staff. Specific instances of anomalies pointed out in CAG report have been shared with the State Governments for corrective action.

(c) The Ministry has taken the following measures for strengthening the implementation of the NREGA:

- (i) States have been requested to appoint dedicated staff and provide them adequate training for NREGA implementation at all levels. To meet the salaries of such dedicated staff, the administrative expenditure under NREGA which was earlier limited to 2% of the total cost was enhanced to 4% with effect from 1.4.2007 and has now been further enhanced to 6% in the current year.
- (ii) Training to all other functionaries involved in the implementation of the Act (PRIs and officials) has been emphasized from time to time. Expenditure towards the training programmes is borne by the Central Government.
- (iii) A web enabled Management Information System (MIS) has been developed in the Ministry to regularly monitor the reliability and authenticity of the figures reported by the States. State Governments are advised to make corrections whenever defects are noticed.
- (iv) Modifications have been made in Schedule I & II of the Act to strengthen the provisions of transparency and accountability, social audit and grievance redressal.
- (v) National toll-free telephone Helpline under NREGA established which receives complaints and queries relating to NREGA. States have also been requested to set up similar helplines.

Convergence of Rural Development Scheme in NREGS

411. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: