

Employment for Village Women

1338. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:

SHRIMATI USHA

MALHOTRA:

SHRi M. MADDANNA:

Will the Minister of RURAL RE-CONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the employment of village women;

(b) what are the details of the projects which are sponsored by the Central Government all over India to provide employment for the rural women;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce power spinning Anibar Cnarkha in village areas for providing employment to village women; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in affirmative, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) and (b) The subject matter is being handled by different Ministries/Departments, including the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction. Information from other Ministries/Departments is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House later. As regards the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, its primary role is to alleviate the lot of the rural poor (without distinction of sex), comprising the small and marginal fanners, landless labourers, rural artisans and others. It works for the integration of various components of rural development programmes for the benefit of the rural people and for mitigating the problem, of rural under-employment and un-employ-ment. The schemes of the Ministry, like the Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM), and those of the Khadi and Village industries Commission are

directed towards the achievement of the above objectives. The Ministry seeks to evolve a coordinated approach with the active involvement of the States. The States have been particularly asked to ensure that women are not ignored in obtaining the benefits accruing from the above programmes. Women constitute about 45 per cent of the total number of artisans who have been provided jobs in the programmes of Khadi and Village industries Commission.

The details of the above mentioned programmes are as under:

(1) *Integrated Rural Development Programme*

The main objective of the pro-I gramme is to raise the income levels of th, families of the rural poor so that they go above the 'poverty line'. The programme is aimed at a target group consisting of small and marginal farmers, agrl. labourers, rural artjflttns and craftsmen, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. A significant increase in the income of the target group families is to be brought about through generating opportunities of employment and also by giving productive assets and jesources. The twin objectives of raising incomes and generating employment are to be achieved through investment in agriculture and ancillary occupations, cottage and small scale industries and in practically any viable economic activity which suits the beneficiary family. The schemes undertaken by the beneficiaries under this programme are. financed by a subsidy provided by the Government and through loans to be extended by the banking institu- tion

(2) *National Rural .Employment Programme*

This programme was earlier known as the Food for Work Programme. The main objectives of the programme were to utilize available foodgrains¹ for generating employment in rural

areas and creating durable community is in order to strengthening the rural infrastructure for socio-economic development. This programme has now been replaced by the "National Rural Employment Programme". The main objectives of the new programme are: —

- (i) to utilize surplus stocks of food grains for providing new job opportunities to the needy in the rural areas;
- fii) to increase the purchasing power of the rural poor and to raise their nutritional standard; and
- (iii) to create durable community assets for strengthening the rural infrastructure and thereby to improve the socioeconomic condition of the rural people.

(3) *Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM).*

The national scheme of training of rural youth for self-employment has been initiated with the principle objective of the removal of unemployment among youth. The main thrust of the scheme is on equipping rural youth with necessary skills and technology, to enable them to seek self-employment. Apart from institutional training, training is also given through local servicing and industrial units, master-craftsmen, artisans and skilled workers. For the exclusive benefit of women, a sub scheme of TRYSEM has been framed for upgrading some training centres. The objectives of the sub-scheme are to provide training and work opportunities to rural women belonging to the target group families who can earn wages or supplement their income either at home or at a centrally located place,

Cc) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

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Misutilisation of Foodgrains for Food for Work Programme by West Bengal Government

1389. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government misutilised the allotment of foodgrains for the food for work programme;

(b) whether the conditions laid down by the Central Government to use the food grains allotted to State Governments for the food for work programme were followed by the West Bengal Government;

(c) whether the West Bengal Government refused to form district and block committees to utilise the allotment of foodgrains for the food for work programme in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, what action Centre has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) and (b) A study of the implementation of food for work programme in West Bengal has revealed instances of the type that (i) no proper planning of works executed has been done, (ii) standard specifications have not been followed in execution of works, (iii) technical support provided for their execution is neither sound nor adequate, (iv) supervision and monitoring of works has not been effective and (v) no State level Steering Committee has been constituted to make intra state allocation and to watch the progress in implementation of the programme.

(c) and (d) The Government of West Bengal have now agreed to constitute District Level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Zila Parishad Chairmen. The State Government has already been asked to rectify all the defects.