

**Village Knowledge Centres for farmers**

1966. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Village Knowledge Centres programme being implemented by Government is achieving its targeted goals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such centres established, so far, and their working along with the details of nodal agencies/officers; and
- (d) the details of banks that are providing details of the schemes to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Village Knowledge Centres (VKC) programme was initiated on pilot basis in the past under the Rural Technology Scheme of CAPART.

(b) The main objective of VKC was to have an online interactive sessions from central studio to multiple remote sites to address need based issues at grass root level.

(c) CAPART had set up two VKCs on pilot basis as per the details given below:

Sl.No.	Nodal Agency	Location of VKC	Details of working
1	NIRDESH, Vill. Majhulai, PO Khabra Distt Muzzaffarpur Bihar.	Bihar, having Central Studio at Consultancy cum Guidance Center (CGC) Vaishali connected to one remote centre at Serukahin Panchayat of Kanti block in Muzzaffarpur district	Was functional from 2007-2009
2	Dhan Foundation, 18, Pillaiyar Street, Soma Sundram Colony, Madurai Tamil Nadu.	Tamil Nadu, having central studio at Pulluthi People Academy, Madurai connecting 10 remote sites in 3 districts of Tamil Nadu.	This centre was not provided operational cost due to discontinuation of VKC programme.

(d) Providing details of schemes to farmers through banks was not the objective of above mentioned pilot projects.

**Variation in sharing of work days under MGNREGS**

1967. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is being implemented properly throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a large variance in regard to sharing of work days from State to State;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government for its proper implementation all over the country without any variation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), work has been provided in the 2.47 lakh Gram Panchayats to more than 8 crore workers in 5.06 crore households. Till date, 15.96 crore persondays have been generated under the programme at a cost of Rs. 2.34 lakh crore.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir. There are variations in the demand for work between States, depending on the level of development. Being a demand-driven programme, actual demand for work depends on several factors including available alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA, rainfall pattern, prevailing unskilled wage rates in rural, semi-urban/urban areas, better connectivity to semi-urban/peri-urban/urban areas and also manner of implementation of the programme by the State Government has taken steps to ensure that the demand shall be registered promptly through conduct of monthly Rozgar Diwas in every village.

**Coverage of PMGSY in West Bengal**

1968. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: