

Schemes for welfare of rural people

115. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of programmes/policies formulated by Government to improve the quality of life and economic welfare of rural people;
- (b) the details of measures taken to reduce the poverty and unemployment to improve the health and educational status and to fulfil the basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing of the rural population; and
- (c) the details of action taken to popularize Government programmes/policies amongst rural people?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development, *inter alia*, is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) in rural areas of the country, as a part of overall planning process through State Governments and UT Administrations. The objective of these programmes is to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life in rural areas through employment generation, development of rural infrastructure and provision of other basic amenities.

(c) The Ministry has separate Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Division for planning and executing IEC activities. Realizing its importance, the Ministry has progressively strengthened its IEC activities to disseminate information through most of the available modes of communication. Besides, separate funds have been earmarked for IEC activities under Rural Housing, MGNREGA and NRLM which are pooled together and are utilized for undertaking IEC activities in respect of all the programmes of the Ministry in a holistic manner.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

116. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has recently announced the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana;

- (b) if so, the details thereof.
- (c) the criteria laid down for selecting the specific villages;
- (d) whether it is fully funded by the Central Government and if so, the budgetary allocations made in this regard; and
- (e) the details of targets fixed and the number of villages expected to be benefitted?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) has been launched and its guidelines released on 11th October, 2014. Mahatma Gandhi's concept of rural development revolves around creating model villages. The goal of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is to translate the vision of Mahatma Gandhi of transforming Swaraj into Suraaj by way of creating model villages keeping in view the present context. Far beyond mere infrastructure development, SAGY aims at instilling certain values, such as People's participation, Antyodaya, gender equality, dignity of women, social justice, dignity of labour, spirit of community service, cleanliness, eco-friendliness, maintaining ecological balance, peace and harmony, mutual cooperation, self-reliance, local self-Government, transparency and accountability in public life, etc., in the villages and their people so that they get transformed into models for others.

(c) For identification of Adarsh Gram Panchayats by the Hon'ble Members, of Parliament, a Gram Panchayat is the basic unit. It should have a population of 3000-5000 in plain areas and 1000-3000 in hilly, tribal and difficult areas. In districts where this unit size is not available, Gram Panchayats approximating the desirable population size may be chosen. In States which have larger Gram Panchayats, the Hon'ble Member of Parliament (MP) can choose any of them, as Gram Panchayat is the basic unit. The MP would be free to identify a suitable Gram Panchayat for being developed as Adarsh Gram, other than his/her own village or that of his/her spouse. The MP will identify one Gram Panchayat to be taken up immediately, and two others to be taken up a little later. Lok Sabha MP has to choose a Gram Panchayat from within his/her constituency and Rajya Sabha MP a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of a district of his/her choice in the State from which he/she is elected. Nominated MPs may choose a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of any district in the country. In the case of urban constituencies, (where there are no Gram Panchayats), the MP will identify a Gram Panchayat from a nearby rural constituency.

(d) There is no provision of funding in the Scheme. It is primarily about unleashing the power of people who are expected to inculcate pride in village, encourage societal change/Behavioural change, take collective responsibility and initiate People projects. The achievement of this is intended through the convergence and implementation of existing Government Schemes and Programmes without allocating additional funds or starting new infrastructure or construction schemes. With this aim, as approved under the Scheme, secretaries of the relevant Ministries/Departments of the Central Government have been requested by the Ministry of Rural Development to make suitable changes, wherever appropriate, in the guidelines of their respective Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes to enable priority to be given to the Gram Panchayats selected under SAGY.

(e) Primarily, the goal is to develop three Adarsh Grams by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016. Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024. Accordingly, approximately 6400 Gram Panchayats are expected to be selected and transformed into Adarsh Grams under the Scheme by 2024.

Reduction in allocation of funds for MGNREGA

117. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to decrease the allocation of funds to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the number of beneficiary of MGNREGA has decreased in recent years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of beneficiaries and budget allocation during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.