

**Review of rural development schemes**

†\*53. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the rural development schemes for their effective implementation;

(b) if so, the names and details of such schemes; and

(c) the targets set for each of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) (a) to (c) One of the thrust areas identified in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government is "deepening and widening of rural prosperity". A Conference of Chief Minister's and State Minister's of Rural Development and Rural Drinking Water Supply was organized on 29th & 30th June, 2004 to focus attention on certain important areas of concern in implementation of various rural development programmes in order to achieve the objectives stated in the NCMP. The theme of the Conference was 'Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj'. The Conference was inaugurated and addressed by the Prime Minister. The following schemes were reviewed for their effective implementation during two day Conference:

1. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) — Which is a wage employment programme for the rural poor which provides additional wage employment opportunities and food security.
2. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) — Which is a self-employment programme for the rural poor which aims to bring assisted Swarozgaris above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through bank credit and Government subsidy.
3. Rural Housing — The objective of which is to provide houses to the houseless poor in rural areas.
4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) which seeks to provide connectivity to all un-connected habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons with good all weather roads by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

5. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) — Main objective is to improve the productivity of the wastelands and living standards of the poor, through a watershed development approach.
6. Drinking water Supply — Which is meant to provide safe-drinking water in rural areas.

**Deputy Chief of Army Staff for Indian Army**

\*54. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to create a post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff for Information System and Training for the Indian Army;

(b) if so, whether it is part of the modernisation process of the Army; and

(c) how will this help in creating confidence among its cadre?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Conference of Sports Ministers to spot rural talents in Sports**

\*55. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had called a conference of all Sports Ministers from different States in the country to try to find ways to spot latent talent amongst youths in villages and rural areas for selecting them for representing the country;

(b) if so, when was such a conference held;

(c) what were the decisions taken at the conference; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (d) A Conference of State Sports Ministers held on 3.3.2001 discussed the draft National Sports Policy which included issues relating to sports talent search in rural areas.