

Preparation of Model Land Leasing Act by NITI Aayog

2147. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee of NITI Aayog had prepared a Model Land Leasing Act;
- (b) if so, what is the response of States towards the Act;
- (c) the details of States that have adopted or agreed to adopt the Act;
- (d) whether any deadline has been prescribed for States to adopt the Act;
- (e) whether States have communicated any reservation in adopting the Act and if so, the details of those reservations and what is being done to address them; and
- (f) how the States are being encouraged and incentivised to adopt the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Expert Group constituted by NITI Aayog on Land Leasing has suggested a Model Act on agricultural land leasing. This Model Act has been prepared to facilitate the States for enactment of own Land Leasing Laws by the States to enhance the agricultural productivity. The new legal framework is likely to encourage the land owners to lease out land without any fear of losing land right and enable the tenant farmers to access bank credit, insurance, disaster relief and other support services. The land owners may lease out land for agricultural purpose and thus help occupational mobility of the rural poor and help in rural poverty reduction. Besides, it may also provide opportunity for occupational diversification to land owners to opt for non-farm employment. The Model Act has been made public on April 12, 2016. The response from the States is very encouraging. Uttar Pradesh has modified leasing laws and Madhya Pradesh has enacted a new land leasing law in line with the Model Act.

(d) to (f) No deadline has been fixed for adopting the Model Act. None of the State has communicated any resentment about the Act. A dedicated cell on 1st June, 2016 has been set up in NITI Aayog to continuously pursue the matter with the States and facilitate to formulate and enact their land leasing laws/Act with such modifications as they deem appropriate.

**Scheme for educational and economic development
of poor and weaker sections**

†2148. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to formulate a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

comprehensive scheme for educational and economic development of the poor and the weaker sections of society in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The comprehensive flagship programmes/ schemes* for educational and economic development of poor and weaker sections which are operational in all the States/UTs of the country are as follows:

1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
2. Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)
3. Scheme for Providing Education in Madrassas/ Minorities
4. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
5. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)
6. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
7. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRML)
8. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) now renamed as Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana
9. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

* Details of the schemes are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of comprehensive flagship schemes being run for educational and economic development of poor and weaker sections in the country

I Educational Development Programmes

1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India making Free and Compulsory Elementary Education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right. With the notification of "Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, SSA has been harmonized

to meet RTE Act mandate. SSA is implemented in all schools except private unaided schools. Even private unaided schools have an obligation for admitting 25% children belonging to disadvantaged groups under section 12(1) (c) of RTE Act 2009 and hence, the coverage of SSA is universal. Among 28 States/UTs notifying admission, 18 States/UTs have reported actual admission of children in private schools under Section 12(1) (c) during 2014-15. A total of 18.49 lakh children are studying in private schools under Section 12(1) (c) during 2014-15. 07 states have started reimbursement of fees to private schools.

SSA covered about 19.77 crore children in 14.46 lakh schools throughout the country in the year 2014-15. SSA is implemented in partnership with the States/UTs, with revised funding pattern. SSA funds now will be shared in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the States and 90:10 for the 08 North Eastern States and 03 Himalayan States.

SSA provides for opening of new schools in habitations not having access to schooling facilities, residential schools for girls and strengthening of existing school infrastructure with additional classrooms, toilets, drinking water, ramps, library, computers, child entitlements like supply of text books, uniforms etc. It also sanctions additional teachers, organizes pre-service, in-service teacher training, besides providing various grants for school maintenance, development, teaching learning equipment/ materials etc.

2. Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)

National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE), commonly known as Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS), was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1995. MDMS was extended to upper primary (classes VI to VIII) children in 3,479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in October 2007. The Scheme was extended during 2008-09 to cover children of upper primary classes and the name of the Scheme was changed as 'National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools'. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers all school children studying in I-VIII classes in Government and Government Aided Schools, Special Training Centers (STC) and Madrasas & Maqtabas supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Schools are also covered at primary stage from 1st April, 2010.

MDMS is managed and implemented by School Management Committees (SMCs)/ Village Education Committees (VECs), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and Self Help Groups (SHGs).

MDMS has been progressively revised, restructured and universalized at elementary level to provide hot cooked meals to children. It is not contractor driven and engages about 25.71 lakhs cook-cum helpers by States/UTs of which 80% are women. MHRD has already approved the engagement of 28.29 lakhs cook-cum helpers. MDMS is implemented

in partnership with the States/UTs, with revised funding pattern. MDMS funds now will be shared in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the States and 90:10 for the 08 North Eastern States and 03 Himalayan States.

MDMS is an integral part of National Food Security Legislation. During 2013-14, 10.80 crore Children studying in 11.58 lakh schools/ Institutions have been benefitted from the MDMS Scheme across the country.

Fostering social equality

MDMS is helping spread egalitarian values, as children from various social backgrounds learn to sit together and share a common meal. In particular, MDMS can help to break the barriers of caste and class among school children. Appointing cooks from SC/ ST communities is another way of teaching children to overcome caste prejudices.

3. Scheme for Providing Education in Madrassas/ Minorities (SPQEM)

SPQEM seeks to bring about qualitative improvement in Madrassas to enable Muslim children attain standards of the national education system in formal education subjects. The important salient features of SPQEM scheme are: (i) to strengthen capacities in Madrassas for teaching of the formal curriculum subjects like Science, Mathematics, Language, Social Studies etc. through enhanced payment of teacher honorarium; (ii) providing science labs, computer labs with annual maintenance costs in the secondary and higher secondary stage Madrassas; (iii) provision of Science, mathematics kits in primary/upper primary level Madrassas; (iv) strengthening of libraries/book banks and providing teaching learning materials at all levels of Madrassas; etc.

4. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

The vision of the scheme is to provide good quality, accessible secondary education to all young children in the age group of 15-16 years. The major objectives of the RMSA are to: (i) raise the minimum level of education to class X and universalize access to secondary education; (ii) ensure good-quality secondary education with focus on Science, Mathematics and English; and (iii) reduce the gender, social and regional gaps in enrolments, dropouts and improving retention. Important equity interventions provided in the scheme are (i) special focus on micro planning; (ii) preference to Ashram schools for upgradation; (iii) preference to areas with concentration of SC/ST/Minority for opening of schools; (iv) special enrolment drive for the weaker sections; (v) more female teachers in schools; and (vi) separate toilet blocks for girls. The funding pattern under RMSA in respect of normal States is 75:25 and in case of North Eastern States it is 90:10

5. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

KGBV are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC Muslim communities and BPL girls. KGBVs are set up in educational backward blocks where schools are at great distances and are a challenge to the security of girls. This often compels girls to discontinue their education. KGBVs provide for a minimum reservation of 75% seats for girls from SC/ST/OBC and minorities communities and 25% to girls from families that live below the poverty line. As of now till 30th September 2014-15, 3609 KGBVs have been sanctioned in the country enrolling 3.5 lakhs girls therein.

II. Economic Development Programmes

- 1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** guarantees wage employment for 100 days in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Since inception of the scheme, more than 2210 crore persondays have been generated.
- 2. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)** For providing opportunities of self-employment and wage employment to the rural poor by organizing them into Self-help Groups (SHGs) or federations of higher levels and continuously nurture and support them till they come out of abject poverty. More than 3 crore households have been mobilised into the SHGs and SHGs have been disbursed community investment funds for income generating activities.
- 3. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) now renamed as Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin** For providing assistance for shelter to the rural poor living below poverty line. Under IAY, a BPL family was given a grant of ₹ 70000/- in plain areas and ₹ 75000/- (for hilly and difficult areas) which has now been revised to ₹ 1,20,000/- in plain areas and ₹ 1,30,000/- (for hilly and difficult areas) w.e.f. 1.4.2016. The Scheme envisages construction of one crore houses in three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19 which will require the funds of ₹ 81975 crore. Since inception of the scheme, 3.60 crore families have been benefitted from the programme.
- 4. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** To provide social assistance to a wide range of people who are from BPL category and in need (senior citizens, differently abled people and others who have suffered due to mishaps in life) in both rural and urban India. Approximately, 3 crore beneficiaries are being assisted annually under the program.