

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1420**  
ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

**BOOSTING THE RURAL ECONOMY POST-CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

1420 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:  
the steps being taken by Government to boost the rural economy that is badly hit by  
Coronavirus pandemic?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)**

Ministry of Finance, Government of India, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020, announced relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus. The relief package announced includes, inter-alia

- i. One-time ex-gratia payment of Rs 500 per month for 3 months (April, May and June 2020) to women Jan Dhan Account holders. In pursuance of this, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) implemented the scheme of relief package of one-time ex-gratia payment of Rs 500 per month for 3 months (April, May and June 2020) to women Jan Dhan Account holders through various Banks. A total of Rs. 30956.97 crores has been released towards direct benefit transfers to Women beneficiaries of Jan Dhan account holders under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) @ Rs. 500/- each for three months.
- ii. Ex-gratia of Rs.1000 in two instalments (Rs.500/- each) to the existing old age, widow and disabled/Divyangjan beneficiaries of the schemes of National Social Assistance Programme(NSAP). A total of Rs. 2814.50 crore as ex-gratia was released in two tranches in April and May, 2020 to States/UTs under PMGKY for the existing 282 lakh beneficiaries of NSAP schemes.
- iii. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) wage rate revised w.e.f. 1.4.2020 with average wage rate increase of Rs.20 over the wage rate of 2019-20.
- iv. The collateral free credit limit for the Self Help Group(SHG) members under National Rural Livelihood Scheme (NRLM) enhanced from Rs.10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

Apart from this, Government of India launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected citizens in rural area, in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of the Abhiyaan were to provide immediate employment & livelihood opportunities to the distressed, to saturate the villages with public infrastructure and creation of livelihood assets to

boost the income generation activities and enhance long term livelihood opportunities by giving focus on 25 works in 116 selected districts across 6 States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Abhiyaan has started with resource envelope of Rs.50,000 Crore. The Abhiyaan is a convergent effort of ongoing schemes of 12 Ministries/Department of Central Government.

Four schemes of the MoRD namely, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Pradhan Mantri AwaasYojana- Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RURBAN Mission (SPMRM) have been identified under the GKRA. The achievement in this regard is as under:

- i. Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, a total of 50.78 Crore Persondays employment has been generated during the Abhiyaan with an expenditure of Rs. 39292.81 crore.
- ii. PMAY-G has sanctioned a total of 770522 houses and completed 481210 houses with a total expenditure of Rs.5618.19 crore.
- iii. Under PMGSY, as against the target of Rs. 2902 crore, an expenditure of Rs. 1529 crore has been incurred as on 30.11.2020.
- iv. Under SPMRM, the development works in 47 Rurban clusters under GKRA have been implemented with fast pace for providing employment and livelihood opportunities to the rural citizens. During the abhiyaan period, 13494 works have been completed against the target of 13886 which is 97% of overall physical target and Rs. 693.55 crore expenditure (including convergence expenditure) has been made which is 87% of financial targets taken by SPMRM under GKRA.

Other major steps taken by the MoRD under various schemes during the outbreak of Covid-19 are as under:

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS which is a demand driven wage employment programme provides at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year is to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. During FY 2020-21 (upto 06.02.2021), more than 326 crore person-days have been generated, which is approximately 44% more than the employment generated during the same period in FY 2019-20 and more than 1.61 crore new job cards have been issued. Government has enhanced the allocation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for Financial Year 2020-21 from BE Rs.61,500 crore to Rs.1,11,500 crore.

PMAY-G aims to provide assistance to eligible rural households for construction of 2.95 Crore Pucca houses with basic amenities to achieve the objective of “Housing for All” by 2022. Efforts taken under PMAY-G during COVID are as under:

- a. Focus on completion of those PMAY-G houses where the beneficiaries have received 2nd and 3rd installment
- b. Utilise the lockdown period to upload on a campaign mode details of physically completed houses on AwaasSoft
- c. Maximum sanctions to beneficiaries be issued against the 2020-21 targets.
- d. States/UTs advised to take up Rural Mason Training in a long way and that training can be conducted under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mode

In the current FY, 24.44 lakh houses have been completed in PMAY-G and 0.64 lakhs in Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) at an expenditure of Rs.39195 crore. In the current FY, 35.44 lakh houses have also been sanctioned.

PMGSY was launched in the year 2000 as a measure towards alleviation of poverty in rural areas by providing access to basic services to the rural population by providing them good quality roads. During the period of COVID states were directed to accelerate the pace of works so as to create more employment opportunities and boost rural economy. Roughly, 34,371 Km works have been sanctioned in the FY 2020-21 in PMGSY III.

SPMRM is a unique programme, designed to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth. 300 Rurban Clusters with thematic economic growth points, are being developed across the country under this Mission. The Ministry had issued an advisory to the States/UTs regarding modification in existing projects/works proposed in DPR of cluster due to Covid-19 pandemic and to include more economic activities in order to reboot the rural economy. Cluster wise consultations have been convened with PRI members, SHG representatives as well as State and district functionaries to identify issues and suggestions with respect to further improving the on-ground implementation of the Mission.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission(DAY-NRLM) aims to reduce poverty by organizing the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs), and continuously nurturing and supporting them to take economic activities till they attain appreciable increase in income over a period of time. During the year 2020-21 (till Jan 2021), the Ministry of Rural Development under DAY-NRLM facilitated women Self Help Groups to leverage credit of Rs 56417 Crores from formal banking system for investing for continuation of their exiting economic ventures and also acquire new productive assets to start new enterprises.

There are two other skill development programmes for rural poor youth under DAY-NRLM, namely, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs). Both these schemes are aimed at increasing employability of rural poor youth either for wage or self-employment. After unlock orders and opening of training centres, under DDU-GKY a total of 9986 candidates have been trained and 36933 candidates have been placed in jobs during the current financial year 2020-21 (upto December, 2020). Under RSETI a total of 111367 candidates have been trained and 93874 candidates have been settled during the current Financial Year 2020-21(upto December, 2020).

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