

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1417
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/12/2024

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS IN DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1417 SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether full-time consultants and advisors have been appointed for the various activities of Rural Development Department;
- (b) the levels at which the service of full-time consultants and advisors is being utilised, the details regarding their fields of activity;
- (c) duration of the term of full-time consultants and advisors appointed;
- (d) the total number of full-time consultants and advisors currently working with the Ministry and its various Departments;
- (e) the total amount being awarded to them annually as honorarium/ salary/fees, department-wise; and
- (f) whether there is any mechanism to assess their performance periodically, if so, details of the performance report?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. CHANDRA SEKHAR PEMMASANI)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Rural Development comprises two departments viz – the Department of Rural Development (DoRD) and the Department of Land Resources (DoLR). Under this Ministry, the Department of Rural Development is engaged in the implementation of several flagship programs of the Government of India - the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP), etc.. All these flagship programmes are implemented through a dedicated Management Information System using innovative IT solutions. The Department of Land Resources is engaged in the exercise of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and Watershed Development Component-Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0. Therefore, it is seen that the workload in this Ministry has significantly increased.

The Ministry of Rural Development has hired consultants to facilitate the smooth implementation of its flagship programmes and to support the Officers engaged in different programme divisions of the Ministry. The Consultants also provide support for facilitating day-to-day coordination of the Ministry with the States/UTs, enabling the Officers to focus on core policy issues and ensure the meeting of milestones within the set deadline.

As on 5.12.2024, a total of 284 consultants were hired with different divisions of the DoRD and 41 consultants were hired by the DoLR. These consultants are hired through Institutions, Autonomous bodies, Public Sector Enterprises, etc. The Consultants are hired after following due process with the approval of the Competent Authority, thereby ensuring compliance with the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR) and other extant instructions. The remuneration of the consultants is paid from the funds made available to this Ministry as Budget support.

(e): Approximately an expenditure of Rs. 43.84 crore annually is incurred on the hiring of consultants by the Department of Rural Development and Rs 3.92 crore annually by the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry.

(f): The performance of the consultants is assessed by the respective Departments in the Ministry periodically-monthly/annually or at the time of renewal of the contract depending on the requirements. The tenure of the consultants is continued if their performance is satisfactory.
