

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 02.03.2010
ANSWERED ON
PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF NREGS .

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Will the Minister of COAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

- (a) what are the major defects pointed out in the Performance Audit by CAG in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and the measures taken to correct such lapses and deficiencies and the time-frame before which corrections could be ensured;
- (b) the number of districts in the country where the scheme is in operation; and
- (c) how long it will take to bring the entire country under this scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a): On a request made by the Ministry of Rural Development, C&AG conducted performance audit of the implementation of NREGA in 26 States covering 68 district, 141 blocks and 568 Gram Panchayats for the period from February, 2006 to March, 2007. Findings of CAG as given in its final report related mainly to issues such as application for employment, issue of dated receipts, job card formats, muster rolls, maintenance of record registers, delayed payment of wages, lack of an effective grievance redressal system, inspection of works, monitoring and shortage of staff with the implementing agencies, expenditure on non-permissible activities, ineligible persons and incorrect accounting of expenditure. To correct such lapses and deficiencies, the Ministry has taken the following steps:

(i) Awareness generation through intensive IEC activities involving print as well as electronic media.

(ii) Permissible administrative expenditure limit has been enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for NREGA, strengthening of management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and ICT infrastructure

(iii) Payment through institutional accounts of NREGA workers to infuse transparency in wage disbursement. To cover gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics have been initiated

(iv) Instructions have been issued on 7.9.09 directing all States to appoint ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal in a time bound manner.

(v) Social audit: Modifications have been made in the Act on 31.12.08 for laying down the procedures for social audit.

(vi) Independent Monitoring by Eminent Citizens.

(vii) Visit by Central Council members

(viii) ICT based MIS to make data available to public scrutiny, inclusive of Job cards, Employment demanded and allocated, Days worked, Muster rolls, shelf of works, Funds available/spent and fund to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action.

(ix) Periodic reviews with State Governments

(x) Toll free Helpline No. 1800110707 set up for making enquiries about NREGA and for grievance

redressal.

(xi) District Excellence Award for districts with outstanding performance under NREGA

(xii) Rozgar Jagrookta Puruskar for NGOs working towards effective implementation of NREGA.

(b) & (c): Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act has been extended in rural areas of the entire country from 1.4.2008. At present, the Act is in operation in 619 districts of the country.