

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON**

STUDY ON IRRREGULARITIES IMPLEMENTATION OF NREGP .

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Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani

Will the Minister of COALCOALCOALCOALPLANNING be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government has carried out any study to ascertain the ground reality in regard to implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of irregularities found in the implementation of NREGP;

(d) the details of measures taken to achieve the objectives of NREGP; and

(e) the quantum of money meant for NREGP misused and diverted for other purposes and action taken by Government in the matter against the erring persons?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI V.NARAYANA SAMY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission had conducted an evaluation study of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in 2008-09 on sample basis covering 20 districts across 16 States selected from the 200 districts which were initially covered under NREGP. Two blocks from each selected district and three Gram Panchayats from each selected block were taken in the evaluation study. Fifty (50) beneficiaries from each Gram Panchayat were selected randomly in the sample for assessing whether benefits are reaching to the people or not. Besides, a number of professional institutions including IITs, IIMs and Agricultural Universities have conducted studies to assess the impact of Mahatma Gandhi NREGP in rural areas. These studies have revealed that the quality of life of labourers in rural areas has improved after inception of NREGP. Some of the key findings of these studies are:

(i) Increase in Agriculture Minimum Wages as well as wage earned per day and annual income

(ii) Effective targeting of marginalized groups SC/ST/BPL.

(iii) NREGP is used as a supplementary income source during non-agricultural season.

(iv) Work availability has increased after inception of NREGP

(v) Multiplier effects of NREGP such as improvement in ground water, improved agricultural productivity and livelihood diversification in rural areas have been reported.

(c): Mahatma Gandhi NREGP is demand based and therefore, there are predetermined targets under the Act. The shortcomings noticed in the implementation of the Act are

(i) lack of awareness among the rural population about their legal rights under the Act,

(ii) lack of adequate staff with the implementing authorities and

(iii) delay in payment of wages to workers.

The Ministry of Rural Development receives complaints from various sources regarding irregularities in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGP. A total of 1464 complaints of irregularities in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGP have been received in that Ministry.

(d): The steps taken by the Union Government to ensure effective implementation of the scheme are:

(i) Administrative expenditure limit under NREGP has been enhanced from 4% to 6% to strengthen and for capacity building of implementing agencies. Awareness generation through IEC activities have been taken up which include both print as well as electronic media.

- (ii) ICT based Management Information System(MIS) has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny, inclusive of Job cards, Muster rolls, Employment demanded and allocated, number of days worked, shelf of works, Funds available/spent and fund to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action.
 - (iii) Payment of wages to MGNREGP workers has been made mandatory through their accounts in Banks/Post Office to infuse transparency in wage disbursement.
 - (iv) Rolling out Biometric based ICT enabled real time transaction of MGNREGP workers to eliminate fake attendance and false payments.
 - (v) Periodic reviews in the Performance Review Committee meeting held on quarterly basis. State specific reviews are also undertaken.
 - (vi) Independent Monitoring and verification by National Level Monitors and Eminent Citizens.
 - (vii) Visit by members of Central Employment Guarantee Council.
 - (viii) State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up.
 - (ix) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal in a time bound manner.
- (e): The Ministry of Rural Development has received 371 complaints regarding misappropriation of funds and 6 complaints regarding diversion of funds in some States. As implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments/UT administration concerned in accordance with the Employment Guarantee Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry have been forwarded to the States concerned for taking appropriate action.