

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1409
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/08/2024

STATUS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1409 SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

the current challenges in achieving the main goals of rural development and the steps that are being taken to normalise them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is implementing a number of schemes/programmes in the rural areas of the country such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY NRLM), Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY). Necessary guidelines/instructions have been issued from time to time to ensure smooth implementation and achievement of the main goals of rural development under these schemes/programmes. However, some scheme-specific challenges are as under:-

- i. Under PMAY-G, the main challenges in implementation includes the delay in release of Central & State Share from State Treasury to State Nodal Account of PMAY-G, cases of unwillingness of beneficiaries, permanent migration, disputed succession of deceased beneficiaries, delay in allotment of land to landless beneficiaries by the States/UTs and at times General/Assembly/Panchayat elections, unavailability of building materials.
- ii. Under PMGSY, there have been challenges such as forest clearance issues, land acquisition hurdles, adverse weather conditions, limited contracting capacity of States, and delays in maintenance fund availability due to which extensions in PMGSY I, II and Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Areas (RCPLWEA) were given. The completion timeline for PMGSY-I, II, and RCPLWEA was March 2024. The timeline for RCPLWEA has been extended to March 2025. The timeline for completion of works under PMGSY-III is also March 2025.

MoRD accords emphasis for targeted implementation of its schemes/programmes. The scheme/programme wise factors affecting performance are analyzed and tailored actions are taken accordingly. Some of the major strategies in this regard are:-

- i. In order to ensure that the schemes reach closure, the Ministry has evolved a comprehensive multi-level and multi-format system of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of rural development schemes, including Performance Review Committee Meetings, District Development Co ordination and Monitoring Committee (“DISHA”) meetings, National Level Monitors (NLMs), Area Officers Schemes, Common Review Mission, Concurrent Evaluation and Impact Assessment Studies. State specific reviews of States/UTs are also undertaken from time to time and action is taken on the basis of their findings.
- ii. The schemes of the Rural Development have been brought upon end-to-end transaction based MIS, which enables all the stakeholders to monitor status of schemes in a real time basis. The works are photographed with geo-tags and time stamps. All the data of RD schemes are available on public domain.
- iii. In addition to above, the Ministry arranges for sufficient funds for completion of works, facilitates forest clearances, coordinates convergence with related Ministries/Agencies for manpower, technical support etc.
- iv. Social Audits are also conducted for some Schemes like Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and PMAY-G. Ombudsman are also appointed for attending to any grievances regarding MGNREGA works. In addition, grievance redressal is being given due attention in all schemes of the Rural Development.
- v. States are advised to recruit adequate staff for implementation of the programme. Norms have been laid for staffing. Funds are provided for supporting hiring of manpower and other administrative expenditure. The training and orientation of programme manpower is also arranged from time to time.
- vi. Norms for administrative and technical oversight and audit have been laid down. Mobile application for inspection viz. Area Officer App has been developed. Similar apps have been developed in other areas too and is an ongoing process depending on the requirements. The performance of officials is monitored against them.
- vii. Regular coordination with the State Govt. for preparation of the fund release proposals and documentation is made and timely advice is tendered to them in this regard. In cases of delay, the matter is escalated to higher levels for seeking release of funds.
- viii. Women networks, community based organisations and civil society organisations are mobilised for creating demand from below for proper implementation of the schemes.
- ix. Under MGNREGA, emphasis has been given in strengthening Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) by empowering local bodies to sanction works, provide work on demand, and authorize wage payments.
- x. Under PMAY-G, awards to the best performing States/UTs, Districts based on performance index dashboard, thereby creating healthy competition and motivation among the States/UTs for achieving the set targets.
- xi. Under PMGSY, both state and central authorities are actively working to address the challenges through coordination with various nodal agencies and experts, making concerted efforts to resolve issues and ensure the timely completion of all remaining works.
