

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1851  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022**

**Burden of Reverse Migration**

**1851. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rural economy is still stressed with the burden of continued reverse migration that started during the Covid-19 induced lockdown;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the overall budgetary allocation for rural economy has declined as a proportion of both total expenditure and GDP in 2023 and is the lowest since 2018-19 with its share in GDP being only 0.5 per cent and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ride the rural economy out from the pandemic induced crisis?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a), (b) and (d): The strength of the rural economy can be seen from the growth in the agricultural sector, which is the main source of income in rural areas. With agricultural activities being exempted from COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions, farming and allied activities have continued without hindrances. According to the estimates by the National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic and constant prices, in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sectors, grew at the rate of 4.5% and 4.6% in Q1 and Q2 of 2022-23, respectively. These growth rates in the corresponding quarters in 2021-22 were 2.2% and 3.2%. Strong agricultural growth signals strong prospects for the rural economy.

To provide employment to returnee migrants during COVID-19 pandemic, the Government had launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan of 125 days on June 20, 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected persons in rural areas, in 116 selected districts across 6 States of Bihar,

Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Abhiyaan ended on October 22, 2020 and a total of Rs. 50.78 crore person-days employment was generated with a total expenditure of Rs. 39,293 crores during the Abhiyaan.

Further, key measures taken for the benefit of the rural economy include Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana; additional Emergency Working Capital Funding for farmers through NABARD; concessional credit through Kisan Credit Cards; fund transfer under PM-KISAN, PM Fasal Bima Yojana claim payments; additional subsidy for DAP & P&K fertilizers; extension of SVAMITVA Scheme to all States/UTs; enhancing agricultural credit and infrastructure funds; interest subvention for dairy cooperatives; liquidity support under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to states; enhanced MGNREGA budgetary support, Agri-Infrastructure Fund for farm gate infrastructure; scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, National Animal Disease Control Programme, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Promotion of Herbal Cultivation and Beekeeping and extension of Operation Greens from Tomatoes, Onion and Potatoes to all fruits and vegetables.

Further, the Government is implementing, inter-alia, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, and National Social Assistance Programme to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural areas through employment generation, strengthening of livelihood opportunities, promoting self-employment, skilling of rural youths, provision of social assistance and other basic amenities.

(c) The details of budgetary allocation to the Department of Rural Development vis-a-vis utilisation, for the last five years are given below:

(Figures in ₹ in crores)

| Year    | Budget estimate | Revised estimate | Actuals   |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|
| 2017-18 | 105447.88       | 109042.45        | 108559.63 |
| 2018-19 | 112403.92       | 112403.92        | 111841.88 |
| 2019-20 | 117647.19       | 122649.00        | 122098.19 |
| 2020-21 | 120147.19       | 197376.53        | 197376.53 |
| 2021-22 | 131519.08       | 153558.07*       | 160433.47 |

\* Cash Supplementary of Rs. 9868 crore provided over RE 2021-22 in 3<sup>rd</sup> batch of SDG

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