

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 901
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2023

VILLAGE EMPLOYMENT

901. SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to boost rural incomes and generate village employment starting from grassroots and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Government to boost Self Help Groups and NGOs in rural areas in recent years; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Government to boost social outcomes in the field of health, sanitation and education in rural areas in recent years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of welfare schemes for rural areas of the country viz., Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) and Watershed Development Component (WDC) of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). These schemes work towards bringing about overall development of rural areas, providing basic amenities and facilities like providing pucca house, all weather road connectivity, strengthening of livelihood opportunities, providing minimum guaranteed rural employment, promoting self-employment, skilling of rural youths in various useful trades and entrepreneurship qualities, infrastructure development and provision of social assistance.

For creating employment opportunities and impart skills to rural people, this Ministry is implementing a number of schemes viz., MGNREGS, DDU-GKY and RSETI. While MGNREGS assures guaranteed employment to unskilled workers in the rural areas, DDU-GKY and RSETI schemes promote employability through either wage or self-employment leading to economic and social development of youths of rural area of the country. Apart from this, under Skill India Mission, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) for Skill based training of the youth across the country including of youth belonging to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe/ Economically weaker Section under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Under PMKVY, STT is linked to placement, while RPL does not mandate placements as it recognizes the existing skills of candidate. Similarly, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth.

DAY-NRLM is also working to mobilize rural poor women in Self Help Groups (SHGs) and to create additional livelihood opportunities for them through provisions of credit, orientation on key livelihood skills and advisory support besides taking up value chain development activities. Under the Scheme, the following steps have been taken to boost SHGs in rural areas:

- i. Start Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), which aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set up enterprises with an objective to form entrepreneurial eco system for SHGs.
- ii. Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) aims to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote rural villages and for overall economic development of the area.
- iii. Convergence initiatives have been taken up with MGNREGS, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises etc.
- iv. DAY-NRLM is also promoting certified organic agriculture through Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS) of National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) to provide more remunerative price to the small and marginal farmers for their organic produce.
- v. SHG members as Business Correspondents/Digipay Sakhi is an initiative to provide last mile delivery of financial services including deposit, credit, remittance, disbursement of pensions & scholarships, payment of MGNREGA wages and enrollment under insurance and pension schemes.
- vi. National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) is a World Bank supported project with an objective to establish efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor to provide sustainable livelihood.

As of 31st December, 2022, DAY-NRLM has mobilised 8.75 crore rural women members into 81.24 lakh SHGs, across 723 districts and 6893 blocks of 34 States and Union Territories. These SHGs have been federated into 4.73 lakh Village Organisations (VOs) and 30862 Cluster Level Federations (CLF). DAY-NRLM has also trained 4.13 lakh community resource persons who are skilled in different thematic areas such as gender, financial inclusion, livelihood promotion, nutrition etc. As of 31st December, 2022, 41.84 lakh SHGs have been provided with revolving funds, and 23.22 lakh SHGs have been provided with Community Investment Funds as capital support. (Source: DAY-NRLM MIS).

(c): The Government is also implementing various schemes for socio- economic upliftment of rural areas and its people through various other Ministries, namely, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, Ujala scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, National Health Mission including National Rural Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Samagra Shiksha Scheme, Padhna Likhna Abhiyan, PM-Poshan, National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme for meritorious students of economically weaker sections, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minority communities, Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, National Food Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana etc. All these schemes individually or in synergy with one another help to augment health, education levels and cleanliness in villages of India.
