

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 334
ANSWERED ON 19/07/2022

DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS

334. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the development of rural areas has been one of the priorities of the Government;
- (b) if so, the action taken to remove the imbalance between urban and rural India and steps taken by Government to make villages self-sufficient; and
- (c) the action taken for the weaker sections living in rural areas to have a pucca house, an all weather road to reach the nearest facilities or markets, employment opportunities, pensions for old persons, widows and physically handicapped and training to impart skills to people of rural areas of the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Development of rural areas is one of the key priorities of the Government. In this regard, 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) to bring about overall development of rural areas. These schemes have been framed to deliver 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.

In addition to the above, the Government is also implementing various schemes of other Ministries for socio-economic upliftment of rural areas 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, Poshan Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, National Food Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana etc.

These schemes/programmes work towards the objective of the Government to remove rural-urban imbalances, provide self-sufficiency in villages and promote balanced economic growth.

(c): The Government focuses on development of rural areas by provision of basic amenities and facilities which include inter-alia, housing, connectivity, employment opportunities and social security measures to the rural people.

With a view to provide a pucca house for the weaker sections living in rural areas, this Ministry is implementing PMAY-G, which aims to provide assistance to eligible rural households for construction of 2.95 Crore Pucca houses with basic amenities to achieve the objective of “Housing for All” in rural areas. To allow the beneficiaries a dignified living, the scheme aimed at converging benefits from other initiatives aiming at provision of basic services to household. PMAY-G has been converged with Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) for construction of toilets. Simultaneous efforts are also made for convergence of other amenities like piped drinking water, electricity connection, LPG connection etc. under various government programs.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) implements Rural Mason Training (RMT) programme under PMAY-G to address the issue of less availability of skilled masons in the rural areas. RMT programme ensures that the houses constructed under PMAY-G are of good quality. This not only ensures that the houses constructed under PMAY-G are of good quality but also provides livelihood opportunities to the persons who have undergone training.

This Ministry is also implementing PMGSY, which was launched in the year 2000 as a measure towards alleviation of poverty in rural areas by providing access to basic services to the rural population by providing them good quality roads, connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. MGNREGS also provides for taking of work for construction of all weather rural roads to unconnected villages and to connect identified rural production centres to the existing pucca road network and construction of pucca internal roads or streets within a village.

In the year 2013, PMGSY-II was launched for upgradation of selected Through Routes and Major Rural Links (MRLs) with a target to upgrade 50,000 Kms in various states and Union Territories. Union Government had approved the PMGSY III programme in 2019, which mainly focuses on the consolidation of existing Through routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals and aims to construct 1,25,000 Kms of road.

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. 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. NRLM target groups include households, with minimum one deprivation criteria, automatic inclusion of households from SECC data and households identified through a participatory identification process and vetted by Gram Sabha. 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.

With a view to provide pensions to old persons, widows and physically handicapped, this Ministry is implementing NSAP which is a social security/social welfare programme for below poverty line households applicable to senior citizens, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on death of primary bread winner. Under NSAP, three pension schemes, namely: i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), ii) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and iii) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) are implemented for the persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. National Family Benefit Scheme supports financial assistance on the death of primary breadwinner of BPL families.

Under NSAP, monthly pension at the rate of Rs.300/- per person per month to widows and disable persons in the age group of 40 to 79 years and 18 to 79 years, respectively, and Rs.200/- per person per month to old age persons in the age group of 60 to 79 years belonging to BPL households is being paid. The amount of pension is increased to Rs. 500/- per person per month in respect of these beneficiaries on reaching the age of 80 years. A onetime assistance of Rs.20,000/- is provided to a bereaved BPL family on the death of the primary breadwinner of the family.
