Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development

Rajya Sabha
Unstarred Question No. 2604
To be Answered On 17.12.2012

Poverty alleviation schemes

2604. Shri Parimal Nathwani:
Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:
(a) the details of various poverty alleviation schemes being implemented in the "Mission" mode;
(b) how far the Missions have performed especially in Jharkhand; and
(c) the steps taken by Government to accelerate progress under these Missions?

Answer
Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
(Shri Pradeep Jain 'Aditya')

(a) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in a mission mode. It aims at reducing poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities for ensuring appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. The programme is based on building strong and sustainable grass roots institutions.

NRLM is a demand driven programme which is being implemented in a phased manner. The States formulate their own poverty reduction action plans.
The salient features of the NRLM are:-
(a) at least one member from each identified rural poor household, preferably a women, to be brought under the Self Help Group (SHG) network in a time-bound manner, the ultimate target being full coverage of BPL families;
(b) setting up of strong institutions of the poor in the form of SHGs and their federations, Producers Groups etc. for reducing dependence on external agencies;
(c) a multi-pronged approach envisaged for continuous capacity building of the targeted families, SHGs, their federations, government functionaries, bankers, Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and other key stakeholders;
(d) subsidy to be available in form of revolving fund and capital subsidy as an incentive for inculcating the habit of thrift and accumulation of their own funds towards meeting their credit needs in the long run and immediate consumption needs in the short run;
(e) universal financial inclusion of all poor households, SHGs and their federation;
(f) in order to ensure affordable credit, the NRLM has a provision for subsidy on interest rates above 7 percent per annum for all eligible SHGs who have availed of loans from mainstream financial institutions, based on prompt loan repayment;
(g) to look at stabilizing and enhancing existing livelihoods and subsequently diversifying them;
(h) to pursue skill up-gradation and placement projects through partnership mode; and
(i) to promote convergence with other programmes of the Government.

Under NRLM target for women beneficiaries is 50%, for SCs/STs it is 50%, for Minorities it is 15%, and 3% for disabled.
(b) In order for the States/Union Territories to transit to NRLM, the following three criteria are required to be met:-

1. The States should either set-up a society or re-designate an existing society as State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) and place a full time Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to head it.
2. A multidisciplinary team of professionals should be put in place in the State society and also at various levels in the first phase in districts and blocks.
3. Prepare a 7 year State Perspective Implementation Plan (SPIP) and Annual Action Plan under NRLM ready.

So far, the Ministry has approved Annual Action Plan of 12 States who have met the above criteria and funds have been sanctioned to them. These States are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The State of Jharkhand is in a stage of setting up the various systems required for smooth and efficient implementation of the programme.

(c) A National Mission Management Unit (NMMU) has been established at the central level. The main role of NMMU is to provide need based technical assistance to the State Missions.