

UNDP Administrator praises successful implementation of rural jobs scheme

"It would improve the standard of life of people in the rural areas"

JAIPUR: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark has praised successful implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Rajasthan, saying it would improve the standard of life of people in the rural areas and stop their migration to cities.

"Conceived as the biggest employment generation programme in the world, the NREGS is seemingly yielding significant results for the rural families in India," said Ms. Clark at a meeting with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot here over the weekend.

She pointed out that the social security programme launched in Egypt had been inspired by the NREGS.

Ms. Clark – three-time Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1999 to 2008 – said the UNDP was willing to share the information about the flagship scheme of the Union Government with other countries and "spread its features" worldwide for the benefit of the people at large.

According to an official release here, Ms. Clark also praised the initiatives taken under the UNDP-sponsored Rajasthan Mission on Skills and Livelihood and Rural Infrastructure Development.

She said the attempts being made in the State for achieving the U.N. Millennium Development Goals would improve the quality of life of poor people.

The release stated that the UNDP Administrator offered her organisation's assistance in the formulation and implementation of public welfare schemes at the micro level and inclusion of new initiative in them.

Ms. Clark, presently on her maiden five-day visit to India, is the first woman to lead UNDP.

Throughout her tenure as the New Zealand Prime Minister she engaged widely in policy development and advocacy across the international, economic, social and cultural spheres.

Ms. Clark is also the chairperson of the United Nations Development Group, a committee comprising the heads of all U.N. funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

State Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Bharat Singh, State Planning Board Deputy Chairman V. S. Vyas, State Chief Secretary T. Srinivasan, U.N. Resident Coordinator in India Patrice Coeur-Bizot and senior officers of the Rajasthan Government attended the meeting.

Source: The Hindu

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