

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for greater transparency and accountability in NREGA implementation

PIB/11 September 2007

The Minister for Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has called for total transparency and accountability in implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in 330 districts of the country. Dr. Singh was addressing the Consultative Committee meeting of the Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi yesterday. Dr. Singh said that the Members of Parliament who are also the Chairmen of the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in their respective districts can play an active role in ensuring that the officials responsible for implementation of the programme are accountable and transparent in implementing the scheme. He said that the programme is progressing well and improving the daily lives of the common people in rural India.

Dr. Singh informed the Members about the out-come of the programme so far, its various components, financial progress and future plans. He said people's participation is very important for the successful implementation of the programme in various districts of the country. He also asked the Members Of Parliament to ensure strict vigilance and monitoring in every district of the country. He particularly requested the Members of the Consultative Committee to visit various works' sites and point out the shortcomings to the concerned officials on the spot. He appealed to the Members to randomly verify the muster rolls and inform the Ministry also if there are any flaws. The Minister said that the States have been directed that social audit of each and every work of NREGA should be completed and the Ministry be apprised of the result of the social audit which is very important for implementation of the programme.

The Members of the Consultative Committee congratulated the Minister for successful implementation of the programme and also pointed out certain difficulties and shortcomings in the implementation process. The points made by the Members, particularly pertain to ensuring the payment of minimum wages in every State which differ from State to State, unemployment allowance, and also improving the work conditions at the works' sites. The Members also requested the Minister to increase the number of districts in the next phase and to cover the entire country with the programme. The meeting was also attended by the Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu and senior officers of the Ministry.(PIB)

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