

## **New schemes for eradication of unemployment**

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According to the last two quinquennial surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, on usual status basis, the employment opportunities have increased by 62.1 million during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-2005.

Keeping in view incidence of unemployment, both in urban and rural areas, Government has been implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes/schemes. Some of these are: Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP); Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

Besides, recognizing the serious problem of unemployment, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was enacted on 7.9.2005. NREGA provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It was implemented in 200 identified districts in the country in its first phase with effect from 2.2.06 and has been extended to 130 more districts in the second phase w.e.f 1.4.2007. However, the Government has now decided to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) to the rural areas of all the remaining districts in the country including the Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008. During the current financial year, a total number of 2.11 Crore households have been provided employment up to October, 2007.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shri Oscar Fernandes (Independent Charge) in a written reply in the Lok Sabha

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