Mawaharashtra leads in statistical of share

Share of Big 5 rose to 66.4% of all farm suicides in 2010

Four more children die in Kolkata
department, in an urban eastern

Mayawati protests Jairam's bid to score political points

CHENNAI: CITY NEWS_02 | 09-10-2011

There is absolutely no political bias, says Jairam Ramesh

Team Anna member Susanne Videgar wired the Prime Minister against a mudslinging campaign by some politicians.

K Chandrasekhar Rao

RBI: Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh, in his reply to a question by a Congress Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha on Friday in New Delhi, said the government was undertaking an overhaul of the MGNREGS. He said around 200,000 villages where MGNREGS was not implemented as per the law would be included in the scheme.

In its reply to a question, Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh said a review of the performance of the MGNREGS was in progress and action would be taken to ensure its proper implementation.

As per the MGNREGS, every rural household in the country is entitled to 100 days paid work in a year. Under the scheme, the Centre provides 70% of funds and states provide the remaining 30%.

Government of India has allocated Rs 1,64,000 crore for 2011-12, an over Rs 4,000 crore increase over the last year's allocated amount.

In two years, the Centre has provided MGNREGS funds to 167,500 villages and 34,638,000 people, he said.

The Cabinet Secretary said action-taken reports were in progress.

central government in the top position in the list of states who accounted for most suicides in the country. The data, released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), showed that 11,053 farm suicides occurred in the country in 2010, which is a fall of 11% from the previous year. The highest number of suicides was in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Assam.

It said the Centre had already taken action against over 28 gram Pradhans for misuse of funds and had ordered a CAG performance audit of the MGNREGS in 12 districts.

The Centre had decided that the MGNREGS, introduced in 2006, would be adapted in a modified form to the Jharkhand Special Public Works Employment (JSPWE) scheme.

The Centre would ensure that those villages were not left out, said the minister.

The minister also said that the Centre would ensure that the MGNREGS was not abrogated by the states.

“Jobs are a right, not a privilege,” he said.

Regarding the number of suicides in the country, Jairam Ramesh said that 28,200 people, mostly farmers, commit suicide every year.

“Every year, thousands of people, mostly farmers, commit suicide across the country. As a result of the MGNREGS, the Centre has tried to introduce a 'guaranteed employment scheme',” the minister said.

“MGNREGS should provide 100 days employment in a year to every rural household. It is a right provided to the people under the scheme,” he said.

Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh, in his reply to a question by a Congress Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha on Friday in New Delhi, said the government was undertaking an overhaul of the MGNREGS. He said around 200,000 villages where MGNREGS was not implemented as per the law would be included in the scheme.

The Centre had already released the first tranche of Rs 2,300 crore as first instalment to 117 districts.

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The Cabinet Secretary said action-taken reports were in progress.

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