

Rs.14.34 Lakh Crore to be spent in 2018-19 for creation of livelihood and infrastructure in rural areas

Ministry of Finance

Rs.14.34 Lakh Crore to be spent in 2018-19 for creation of livelihood and infrastructure in rural areas**Rs. 2600 Crore allocated under Prime Minister Krishi Sinchai Yojna to provide assured irrigation in 96 deprived irrigation districts**

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The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley, while announcing the General Budget 2018-19 in Parliament today announced important measures to give a boost to livelihoods in rural areas of the country. "As my proposals outlined indicate, focus of the Government next year will be on providing maximum livelihood opportunities in the rural areas by spending more on livelihood, agriculture and allied activities and construction of rural infrastructure", the Minister said.

Shri Jaitley informed that in 2018-19, for creation of livelihood and infrastructure in rural areas, total amount to be spent by various Ministries will be Rs.14.34 lakh crore, including extra-budgetary and non-budgetary resources of Rs.11.98 lakh crore. Apart from employment due to farming activities and self employment, this expenditure will create employment of 321 crore person days, 3.17 lakh kilometers of rural roads, 51 lakh new rural houses, 1.88 crore toilets, and provide 1.75 crore new household electric connections besides boosting agricultural growth.

Further, the Government substantially increased the allocation of National Rural Livelihood Mission to Rs. 5750 crore in 2018-19. Shri Jaitley said that loans to Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women increased to about Rs. 42,500 crore in 2016-17, growing 37% over previous year. The Government is confident that loans to SHGs will increase to Rs.75,000 crore by March, 2019, the Minister added.

Strengthening the Ground water irrigation scheme under Prime Minister Krishi Sinchai Yojna - Har Khet ko Pani – the Government allocated Rs 2600 crore for this purpose. This would provide assured irrigation in 96 deprived irrigation districts where less than 30% of the land holdings get that presently, the Minister said.

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