

connectivity in rural areas of the country. The programme envisages connecting all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (250 persons and above in respect of hill States, tribal and desert areas) with all weather roads. PMGSY is all Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Government of India has also identified 'Rural Roads' as one of the six components of 'Bharat Nirman' with a goal to provide connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above (500 persons and above in case of hill States, tribal and desert areas) with an all-weather road by 2009.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Release of NREGS funds to beneficiaries

2704. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to ensure that all margins or the pilferage of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) funds are plugged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now been engaged in the process of ensuring release of funds to beneficiaries only in their accounts in banks and post offices; and

(d) if so, the time by which payments to beneficiaries from NREGS funds are likely to be given through banks or post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to ensure that pilferage of NREGS funds is plugged, Ministry of Rural Development has taken various steps. These include strict monitoring, social audit, development of a web based Management Information System (MIS), inspection of works, establishment of a National toll free Helpline for grievance redressal, wage payment through worker's accounts in banks/post offices and awareness generation about NREGA through intensive IEC activities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Disbursement of wages through accounts in banks/post offices is linked with the availability of banks/postal network in an area. Department of Financial Services has been requested to take action for expanding the outreach of financial services so that wage payment can be made entirely through NREGA worker's accounts. In view of this, it is not possible to fix a time for making entire wage payment through Banks/Post Offices.

Implementation of NREGS in Assam

2705. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of job card holders who have been provided work or otherwise for 100 days during the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 in Assam district wise;