

on the job card. The Ministry has issued instructions to all States to take necessary steps to ensure that names of children below 18 years of age are not included in the household job card and minors are not engaged on NREGA work sites.

Quality of roads under PMGSY

2897. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details about Pradhan Mantri Gram Swarajgar Yojana (PMGSY) in Maharashtra including details of measures initiated to impart training to the field engineers in road design;

(b) the details of steps taken to maintain quality in construction of roads in rural areas; and

(c) the details of outcome of the three-tier quality improvement assessment in Maharashtra in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) In the State of Maharashtra, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), proposals amounting Rs.4,478.62 crore for 4737 road works measuring length of 19,833.59 kilometre have been cleared upto September, 2009. State has completed 3661 road works having length of 13,427.67 kilometre and expenditure incurred Rs.2,745.14 crore upto September, 2009.

Following measures are initiated to impart training to field engineers of PMGSY.

(i) Training modules of 2, 3 and 6 days have been prescribed covering all relevant topics.

(ii) Topic wise training faculties are identified and displayed on PMGSY website.

(iii) States have option to conduct these training programmes at State Institute of Rural Development's (SIRD) (State Institute of Rural Development) established in the States.

(iv) Officer of Superintending Engineer rank would be designated to coordinate training activities in SRRDA.

(v) SIRD and SRRDA can identify suitable well equipped quality control laboratory to be used for training of engineers.

(vi) Trainings have also been organized at Technical institutes and reputed training institutes like National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers (NITHE) National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) etc. 866 engineers of Maharashtra have been given training upto March, 2009.

(b) In order to ensure the requisite quality standards, a Three Tier Quality Mechanism is operational under the programme. The First Tier is in-house quality control through performing

mandatory tests on material and workmanship under supervision of the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU). A field laboratory is required to be established by the contractor.

Under the Second Tier of this mechanism, the State Government is required to monitor the quality through inspections by independent State Quality Monitors (SQMs) at three stages of construction.

In the Third Tier, National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are deployed by NRRDA for monitoring of quality of works through inspection, at random. Based on observations, quality grading is carried out and States are required to take action for rectification of works, if required. The Action Taken Reports (ATRs) are also submitted by the State Government to the NRRDA.

(c) If any work is reported as "Unsatisfactory", the State are required to rectify the work and furnish Action Taken Report. Close monitoring of submission of Action Taken Report is carried out and States are required to take appropriate action in such cases.

In so far as Maharashtra State is concerned, as per the record available, in the last three years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto August, 2009), 1400 inspections were carried out by National Quality Monitors. Out of which 30 works have been found 'unsatisfactory' in completed category and 287 works were found 'unsatisfactory' in ongoing category. The Government of Maharashtra has taken action on the observations of NQMs, outcome of which is given below:

- (i) Out of 30 'unsatisfactory completed works, action for rectification has been taken and quality grading of 7 works out of 30 mentioned above has been improved to 'satisfactory'.
- (ii) Out of 287 'unsatisfactory ongoing works, action for rectification has been taken and quality grading of 130 works (out of 287 mentioned above) has been improved to 'satisfactory'.

DDP in Andhra Pradesh

2898. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks and districts in Andhra Pradesh identified as desert area and such land there in hectares;

(b) the details of the measures taken to conserve land, water, cattle wealth and to preserve ecological balance there under Desert Development Programme (DDP) and results thereof till date; and

(c) the details of the works to be undertaken there under DDP during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) In Andhra Pradesh, 16 blocks of Anantapur district covering an area of about