

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism to monitor the rural drinking water schemes;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what have been the recommendations made by various committees for improving such schemes during the last three years;
- (d) whether any complaints have been received from the beneficiaries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Standing Committee of Parliament on Rural Development has made various recommendations for improving the scheme which *inter-alia*, includes strengthening of online information system for effective monitoring, steps for prevention of slippage, tackling water quality problems, training for water quality monitoring and surveillance, placing information in public domain, coverage of habitations less than 20 households or 100 population also, covering not-covered habitations on priority, incentive mechanisms, etc.

(d) and (e) Department is not aware of receipt of any complaints from the beneficiaries.

Stoppage of MNREGS work in Maharashtra

4298. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that all works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) have stopped in Maharashtra;
- (b) the reasons for the stoppage of the MNREGS abruptly in the State; and
- (c) the effect on the workers who had registered themselves for obtaining work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As reported by the State Government of Maharashtra, during 2009-10, a total of 5,91,539 households had demanded employment out of which 5,91,517 households were provided employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA up to 31.3.2010 in the State.

Land Erosion

4299. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study on the loss of land due to land erosion in various States including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have requested the Central Government for providing financial assistance for rehabilitation of families affected due to land erosion;

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken by Government thereon;

(e) whether Government proposes to prepare any policy regarding optimum utilization of land in the country especially in rural and hilly areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) Yes, Madam. National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur, a Regional Centre of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has conducted a study on extent of land subjected to various kinds of land degradation in the country.

(b) As per the study, 146.82 million hectare of land suffers from various kinds of land degradation in the country. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement. (See below).

(c) No proposal from State Governments have been received by Department of Land Resources, Disaster Management Division of Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for providing financial assistance for rehabilitation of families affected due to land erosion.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) and (f) Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration.