

(iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers. To cover the gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards and biometrics have been initiated.

(iv) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA.

(v) Scheme of Independent Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

(vi) District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including (NREGA).

Miseries faced by people with fractured lips and palates

*552. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that about ten lakh people suffer from fractured lips and palates since birth and every year forty thousand people are added;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these people have no smile on their faces and that they face difficulties at the time of marriage;

(c) whether surgery can easily remove this blemish and malady which poor people cannot afford; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider providing free or discounted surgery to poor people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, no large studies have been carried out in India to establish the prevalence of cleft lip. As per rough estimates, the approximate incidence of cleft lip and palate is around 1.4 per 1000 live births in India.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The facilities for management of such deformities require surgical interventions which are available both in public and private hospitals in the country. More than 1500 plastic surgeons are available for carrying out such interventions in the country.

In Central Government hospitals, the treatment to such patients is available free of cost.

New gas finds of ONGC

*553. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has identified new gas reserves in various States including Surat, Bharuch and Mehsana in Gujarat recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production work has since begun from the new gas reserves; and

(d) if not, by when production is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) No new exclusive gas discoveries have been made during 2009-10 in Surat, Bharuch and Mehsana in Gujarat by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). However, Since 1.4.2009 ONGC has made 6 Gas discoveries in the country. The State-wise details are given below:

Name of the State	Name of the PEL	Well Name	Date of Notification
Andhra Pradesh	IB PEL	ERA-AA/ East Rangapuram-3	27.07.2009
		KMPAA/ Kammapalem – 1	16.12.2009
		PGAB/Penugonda-1A	4.1.2010
		SMA-AA/ South Mahadevapatnam – 1	5.3.2010
Tripura	West Tripura	Sundulbari# 1	27.8.2009
		Karjan Ext – II	2.4.2010

The commerciality and the production from these discoveries depend upon the techno-commercial viability of the discoveries.

Child deaths under five years age

*554. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: