

(b) the details of corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the timely payment to the workers under MNREGS;

(c) whether Government is considering to introduce biometric machines on the lines of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) for labourers to get their wages timely under MNREGS in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides for payment of wages to workers to be made within a period of 15 days. Further, payment is to be made through bank/post office accounts of the workers. Due to lack of bank/post office infrastructure in remote rural areas and also due to delay in measurement of work due to lack of technical staff with the implementing authorities, cases of delay in payment of wages have been reported in the Ministry.

(b) to (d) Instructions have been issued to the States for deputing adequate dedicated staff with the implementing authorities. Administrative expenses under the Act out of which the dedicated staff is paid their salaries have been enhanced from 4% to 6% from 1.4.2009. 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.

#### Implementation of PURA

‡4289. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme namely, Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) has been formulated to provide civic amenities in rural areas in the country on the line of urban areas;

(b) if so, the number of regions and locations thereof identified for the first phase of implementation of this scheme; and

(c) the percentage of financial partnership of the Central Government, State Government and private sectors respectively in the implementation of this scheme and the manner in which private sector would get its investment amount later on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) The Government has approved a central sector scheme namely 'Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA). The scheme proposes holistic and accelerated development of

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

compact areas around a potential growth centre in a Gram Panchayat (or group of Gram Panchayats) through Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework by providing livelihood opportunities and urban amenities to improve the quality of life in rural areas. The Private Developer selected to undertake PURA projects shall identify a Gram Panchayat/a cluster of geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats for a population of about 25,000 – 40,000. Some of the existing schemes of Ministry of Rural Development will be converged for providing capital expenditure. The private developer could access the support under relevant schemes of other ministries for dovetailing into PURA pilot projects for delivering the identified urban amenities. The developer is expected to invest some capital on it's own to fund the essential infrastructure besides meeting operations & maintenance costs. For meeting the viability gap that may still exist, the scheme provides for capital grant limited to a maximum of 35% of the project cost. During this pilot phase, the cost of each PURA project shall be limited to a maximum of Rs. 120 crore.

#### **Social audit of development schemes**

4290. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India suggested social audit of all Government sponsored development schemes, like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to ensure that the intended benefits reach the poor;

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government is considering to take help of NGOs and other social groups to ensure transparency in schemes and effective utilization of welfare funds in the country;

(d) if so, what is Government's stand thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, social audit of all the projects taken up within the Gram Panchayat is mandatory. Under section 17(2) of the Act, it is the duty of the Gram Sabha to conduct such social audits. Instructions have been issued to the States to prepare a district wise calendar of social audit and upload it on the web site of NREGA. Social audit of all projects should be conducted within three months from the date of their completion.