(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether under the existing Land Acquisition Act, the interest of farmers and land owners are not properly protected; and

(d)   if so, the corrective steps Government proposes to take to check misuse of agricultural land in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) and (b) Though land acquisition is being done as per law, there is no evidence brought to the notice of Government of indiscriminate acquisition of vast tracts of fertile and farm land.

(c) and (d) The Land Acquisition Act, 1894 lays down certain criteria for acquisition of land for public purposes and for companies. However, amending the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 is under consideration of the Government.

Poverty and unemployment in rural areas

4281. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government is aware of the acute poverty and unemployment of rural people inspite of several developmental scheme and programme; and

(b)   if so, what measures and strategies are visualized to eradicate rural poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements through the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations the major employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes namely, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as wage employment programme and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) as self employment programme in rural areas of the country. The objective of these schemes is to generate additional income to a rural household which helps them in crossing poverty line.

Corruption in rural development plans

4282. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that corruption is stalling implementation of rural development plans;

(b)   whether Government has conducted any assessment of the corruption in delivery mechanism;