

(b) and (c) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. Central Government releases funds to the States/districts based on the labour demand arising at the field level. Central Government is committed to bear the entire cost of wages to the unskilled workers in order to fulfill the legal guarantee provided under the Act besides bearing expenditure towards the material component and other charges as per the provisions of the Act.

#### ARWSP in Tamil Nadu

4279. SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial and technical assistance were provided to Tamil Nadu under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), [erstwhile Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)], financial and technical assistance is provided to all the States, including to Tamil Nadu. As and when States seek technical assistance in terms of technical knowledge, information, best practices, etc., the same is made available. The details of financial assistance made available to Tamil Nadu under NRDWP/ ARWSP and achievements in terms of number of rural habitations provided with provision of safe drinking water during the last three years, are as under:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crore)	Number of rural habitations covered
2007-08	190.90	11,145
2008-09	287.82	13,235
2009-10	317.95	8,240 *

\*Provisional as on March 31, 2010. Final achievement report is awaited.

#### Acquisition of farm land

4280. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of indiscriminate acquisition of vast tracts of fertile and farm lands under the archaic and flawed Land Acquisition Act of 1894;

(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 Swarajgar 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;