

(c) and (d) As per information provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, two applications for starting medical course in off shore campus are pending, namely that of Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune, Maharashtra and Sumandeep Vidyapeeth, Vadodara, Gujarat.

Placing of MGNREGS on mission mode

*164. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is actively considering to appoint DG rank officers to head Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Prime Minister has suggested that MGNREGS be placed on mission mode in order to implement the Scheme with proper funding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present there is no such issue under consideration.

Rural indebtedness

*165. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the impact of rural indebtedness on the marginal and small farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, whether any assessment of this situation would be made and relief measures would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Report on the "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" (NSS 59th Round) released by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in May, 2005 States that of the 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million farmer households (48.6%) were indebted to either formal or informal or both sources of credit.

In order to help indebted farmers, the Government in the year 2008-09, announced the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 (ADWDRS). The eligible small and marginal farmers were provided a complete waiver of loan as per the guidelines formulated. A total of 3.01 crore small and marginal farmers and 0.67 crore 'other farmers' were to be benefited by the ADWDRS, 2008 to the extent of Rs. 65,318.33 crore.