

(c) whether Government is considering a plan to introduce a smart card-based Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system to pay wages to beneficiaries of the NREGS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Section 3(3) of MGNREGA provides that the disbursement of wages shall be made on weekly basis or in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which such work was done. All State Governments are required to make wage payment to the beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of the Act. However, instances of delayed payment of wages have been brought to the notice of the Ministry.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is at present under consideration of the Government. Wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to MGNREGA workers. The innovative financial inclusion models alongwith ICT enabled financial transactions in rural areas can increase outreach of financial services and provide easy access for MGNREGA workers. Business correspondent/facilitator models, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards and biometrics, mobile banking are some of the measures for initiation.

#### **Fresh survey for BPL families**

1337. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fresh survey of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families has been carried out by his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the criteria adopted to identify the poor and by when the survey is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, Sir.

#### **Special attention for SC/ST population village**

1338. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for special attention for development of the villages having more than 50 per cent SC/ST population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has no plan for special attention for development of the villages having more than 50 per cent SC/ST population.

- (b) Does not arise.

#### **Status of IAY**

†1339. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present nature and status of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is receiving complaints of large scale irregularities at lower level in IAY;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has contemplated to take any action against officers responsible for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is a Centrally Sponsored allocation-based Scheme being implemented in the rural areas of all States/UTs except Delhi and Chandigarh. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers, physically handicapped persons, minorities and other below the poverty line non-SC/ST rural households for construction/upgradation of dwelling units. The ceiling on construction assistance under IAY is Rs. 35,000 per unit in the plain areas and Rs. 38,500 in hilly/difficult areas and Rs. 15,000 for upgradation of a house. The funding pattern of IAY is shared between the Centre and State in the ratio of 75:25 in the case of non North-Eastern States. In the case of North-Eastern States, the funding is shared in the ratio of 90:10. The criteria for allocation of IAY funds to the States and UTs involves assigning 75% weightage to housing shortage and 25% to poverty ratio. Under the scheme, houses are constructed by the beneficiaries themselves by putting their own family labour, as far as possible. Since inception of the Scheme about 223.54 lakh houses have been constructed with an expenditure of Rs. 54688.11 crore. Details showing the financial and physical progress for the current financial year are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) to (d) The Indira Awaas Yojana Scheme is being implemented by the States/UTs. Accordingly, whenever, any complaint in respect of irregularities/deficiencies is brought to the notice of the Ministry, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned State Government/UT. In the case of complaints received from VIPs, National Level Monitors (NLMs) on the panel of this Ministry, are asked to investigate the complaints. If irregularities are established, the State Governments are instructed to take appropriate action. The details of the irregularities noticed in this regard during the current financial year and action taken thereon are given in the Statement-II.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.