

#### **Sole identity proof**

1599. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed unique identification number may become the sole identity proof for opening new bank accounts and getting all other services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) The mandate of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is to issue unique identification number to all the residents of India. The facility of obtaining unique identification numbers would be available to all residents on a voluntary basis. As of now, there is no proposal to make unique identification numbers for residents mandatory.

#### **Increase in funds for NREGA**

1600. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission is not in favour of raising funds for NREGA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Rural Development Ministry sought 60 per cent increase in the allocation to this Scheme; and

(c) if so, the reasons for resistance from the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Planning Commission, after taking into account the resources available, competing demands from other Ministries/Departments and all other relevant factors, determines the Gross Budgetary Support for various Ministries/ Departments. The Ministries/Departments concerned, thereafter finalise the scheme-wise allocation of funds, which is endorsed by the Planning Commission. Department of Rural Development thus, has made scheme-wise allocations including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which were endorsed by the Planning Commission.

#### **Bio-technology regulatory authority**

1601. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any draft legislation to constitute Bio-technology Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and