

Contract of MNREGS work

2733. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States including Orissa are using heavy machinery in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) work instead of using Card holder workers;

(b) whether there is also some allegation of merging MNREGS work in various State Government projects, MLALAD fund and MPLAD fund to reduce the importance of MNREGS work; and

(c) whether contractors can also be engaged in MNREGS works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) In accordance with para 12 of Schedule-I of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, use of machinery is not allowed under the Act. The Ministry has however, received complaints regarding use of machinery under the Act in some States. One such complaint has been received in respect of Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Para 11 of Schedule-I of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides that the Scheme shall not permit engaging any contractor for implementation of the projects under it.

Deep bored hand pumps

†2734. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made to install the deep bore hand pumps to provide water to the people of Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) A memorandum for the integrated development of Budelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh had been presented to Hon'ble Prime Minister, signed by a number of Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly. The request was for financial assistance for the development of the region through a comprehensive package. The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

memorandum included many issues, of which one was construction of small dams on the river Betwa and its tributaries to elevate the ground water level in the area and provide for drinking water. However, in the memorandum there is no direct demand for installation of deep bored hand pumps.

Another request for additional funds of Rs. 1370 crore, for providing drinking water from surface sources in 6 districts of Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh was also received from Minister, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Average work days in NREGA

2735. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that average work days of employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in Bihar in 2008-09 was very low as compared to other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for this low average; and

(d) what are the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Governments, at national level average number of persondays of employment per household during 2009-10 (provisional) is 52 days while average persondays per household in Bihar during this period is 27 days.

(c) and (d) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. Number of days of employment provided to a household depends upon the number of days of employment demanded by the household. Employment demanded by a household also depends upon the availability of other employment opportunities in the area. In order to generate awareness about NREGA among the rural population, intensive IEC activities involving print as well as electronic media have been taken up.

Award for better performing States

2736. SHRI G. N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released by his Ministry to the different States and Union Territories during the last three years, year-wise;