

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is actively considering to start projects in the line of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the urban areas to provide employment to urban unemployed poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government has decided the eligibility criteria for persons seeking employment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely time-frame by which the project would be started?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):

(a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has no proposal under consideration to start project in the line of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, in the urban areas to provide employment to urban unemployed poor.

(b) to (e) In view of the (a) above, Question does not arise.

Shortage of building materials in country

1242. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has noticed the acute shortage of building materials like sand, stone, wood, etc., in the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken to overcome this problem;

(c) whether any alternative materials have been identified and developed by any research agency; and

(d) if not, whether Government will take steps to develop alternative and low cost building materials?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):

(a) Yes, Sir. Shortage has been noticed, particularly in case of sand. Problem of stone is limited to certain areas only and is generally related to environment.

(b) to (d) For sand, coming up market driven solution is the manufactured sand which is made by crushing stone. Research on use of fly ash for part replacement of sand has been taken up during the recent past and part replacement is done in many cases.

Various organizations including Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhubaneswar and National Council for Cement and Building Material (NCCBM) are working on developing alternative materials including use of fly ash, bottom ash and demolished recycled concrete. Recently NCCBM have completed a research project on use of bottom ash as part replacement of sand for block making.

Further, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has undertaken various programmes in this regard including development of products from the waste materials such as rice husk, pine needles and sugarcane bagasse as a substitute to wood. The demolished buildings (both masonry and concrete) are also being utilized to produce the aggregates required for concrete as a process of recycling.

Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, has been working towards a comprehensive and integrated approach for promotion and transfer of potential, cost-effective, environment-friendly, disaster resistant building materials and technologies including locally available materials from lab to land for sustainable development of housing.

Review of projects under JNNURM

†1243. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is reviewing different development projects in 62 cities under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) the main purpose of this review; and

(c) whether Government is considering inclusion of private partnership in slum development projects to provide all basic facilities for living to the urban poor?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Regular reviews are held by the Ministry at the State, Regional and National level under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)-components of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The main purpose of the review is to monitor the physical and financial progress, the quality of projects and to identify the bottlenecks in the implementation of sanctioned projects.

(c) Under JNNURM Guidelines, encouraging Public-Private partnership is one of the reforms. It is for the State Governments to prepare and propose projects involving private partnership. In this regard, the Government has also launched a new scheme called Affordable Housing in Partnership, with an outlay of Rs. 5000 crores, for supporting the construction of 1 million houses for EWS/LIG/MIG category with at least 25% for EWS. The scheme aims at partnerships between various agencies-Government/Parastatal/Urban Local Bodies/Developers for realizing the goal of affordable housing for all. It is a part of Sub-Mission-Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) under JNNURM.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.