

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In June 2010, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas advised ONGC Videsh Ltd to seek legal opinion with regard to the impact of U.S./UN/ other economic sanctions on investment opportunities in Iran. While Iran continues to be India's second biggest crude oil supplier and there is no adverse impact of various economic sanctions on the supply of crude oil from Iran to India, the impact of economic sanctions on investment opportunities pursued in Iran, is being examined. The next India-Iran Joint Working Group meeting to discuss all bilateral issues in the hydrocarbon sector is to be held.

Setting up BNRGSKs equipped with IT

2543. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to set up Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendras (BNRGSKs) equipped with information technology in around 2.5 lakh Panchayats of the country under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether expenditure of this scheme has been estimated before implementing the same; and

(d) if so, the amount of expenditure and the time limit fixed for completion of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra (BNRGSK) as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level has been included as a permissible activity in para 1 of Schedule 1 of the Act vide Notification dated 11.11.2009.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has issued guidelines for construction of BNRGSK. As per the guidelines, overall cost of the BNRGSK at Gram Panchayat level should not exceed Rs. 10.00 lakh

and at block level should not exceed Rs. 25.00 lakh under the MGNREGA budget. The Ministry has not fixed any time limit for completion of BNRGSK.

Length of bridges under PMGSY in LWE affected districts

2544. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for restricting the length of the bridges to 50 meters to be constructed on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) roads;
- (b) whether this restriction will be waived for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts while constructing PMGSY roads;
- (c) if so, by when a decision in this regards would be taken; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) guidelines provides for minor bridges, where necessary, on the roads constructed under the programme. There is no ceiling on the length of bridges on these roads. However, pro-rata cost beyond 50 meter and agency charge, if any, will be borne by the State Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Cost of bridges increase geometrically with length. These are low traffic roads and if length of bridges is large, it would be economical to explore alternative routes. Cost sharing mechanism encourages State Governments to search for alternative routes, which may be more economical. Construction of causeways of any length is permitted under PMGSY. As most of the rivers are seasonal in nature, the purpose of providing all weather connectivity would be served if causeways are constructed instead of long bridges, wherever feasible.

Study conducted on MGNREGS

2545. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: