

### **Pilot programme for expansion of MGNREGS**

\*102. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Government have launched a pilot programme aimed at making the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) more efficient and effective by coordinating it with other development programmes;

(b) whether the idea is to make the coverage of this massive scheme better and widen its impact;

(c) whether Government has also invited proposals from NGOs and professional institutions to initiate such a project to strengthen the scheme as well as bolster livelihood resources base of the rural people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has already been extended to cover the entire rural areas in the country with effect from 1.4.2008. To strengthen its implementation, the Ministry has taken the following measures:

- (i) Administrative expenses have been enhanced from 4% to 6% to enable the implementing agencies to appoint dedicated staff for effective implementation of the Act.
- (ii) ICT based MIS has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny, inclusive of Job cards, Muster rolls, Employment demanded and allocated, number of days worked, shelf of works, Funds available/spent and fund to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action.
- (iii) Payment of wages to MGNREGA workers has been made mandatory through their accounts in Banks/Post Office to infuse transparency in wage disbursement.
- (iv) Rolling out Biometric based ICT enabled real time transactions of MGNREGA workers to eliminate fake attendance and false payments.
- (v) The ministry has issued Joint convergence guidelines for convergence of rural development programmes of Ministries of Environment and Forests, Agriculture, Water Resources, Deptt. of Land Resources, SGSY and PMGSY programmes of Department of Rural Development with MGNREGA.

- (vi) Periodic review of the programme is undertaken in the Performance Review Committee meetings held on quarterly basis. State specific reviews are also undertaken.
- (vii) Independent Monitoring and verification by National Level Monitors and Eminent Citizens.
- (viii) Visit by members of Central Employment Guarantee Council.
- (ix) State and District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up.
- (x) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at District level for grievance redressal in a time bound manner.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

#### **Financial restructuring plan for Air India**

\*103. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has proposed a financial restructuring plan for the Air India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has decided to monetise its land holdings and buildings by outright sale or lease as part of the restructuring plan; and
- (d) if so, the details of land and buildings identified for sale or lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Financial position of NACIL was reviewed by the Government in June, 2009 and onwards by a Group of Minister. It was decided that Air India would come out with a revised business plan along with a financial restructuring plan, after consultation with professional financial/management consultants, indicating the operational measures as also financial restructuring measures required to improve the financial State of the Company. The turnaround plan prepared by the Company and put before the Committee of Secretaries (COS) and Group of Ministers (GOM) focused on cost reduction/revenue enhancement, fleet rationalization, route profitability, manpower rationalization and other structural changes.

With a view to address debt equity ratio, Rs.800 crores has been infused in the equity with a further provision of equity infusion to the tune of Rs.1200 crore on attaining the specified