

village artisans like carpenters, black-smiths, tailors, herbal-collectors, etc. and innovate marketing opportunities of the goods produced by them so that their time and skills could be fully utilized and they become economically viable;

(b) if so, whether any blue-print or scheme has been drawn or formulated in consultation with local bodies like panchayats, Zilla parishads, etc;

(c) whether financial at the local level through co-operative or scheduled banks would also be made available to them on easy terms; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Skill up-gradation, both technical as well as managerial, of rural poor including rural artisans to enable them to take up economic activities for sustainable income is an integral component of the existing Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) being implemented as per approved guidelines. Marketing support involving market intelligence, development of markets, consultancy services and institutional support for marketing of the goods are also provided under the scheme.

(c) to (d) SGSY is a credit - cum - subsidy programme wherein credit from banks is a critical component and subsidy is a minor and enabling component. It has been conceived as a holistic programme covering all aspects of self-employment of the rural poor *viz.*, organization of poor into Self Help Groups and their capacity building, training, selection of key activities, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology and marketing support.

#### **Villages to be connected under PMGSY**

1401. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having population of more than one thousand which are likely to be connected with the main roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Kerala State; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose in the current?

[15 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The unit for coverage under PMGSY is 'habitation' and not 'village'. A habitation is deemed to be connected if it lies on all-weather road or is within 500 metres from the connected habitation or an all-weather road. The Government of Kerala has reported that 118 unconnected habitations with population more than thousand in the State are likely to be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

(b) An amount of Rs. 20.00 crore has been allocated for Kerala under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the current year.

#### **Funds for providing employment**

1402. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to spend Rs. 1,20,500 crores over the next four years to implement its promise of providing at least 100 days of employment every year to at least one person from every poor and lower middle class in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether amount earmarked on the programme for 2004-05 has been Rs. 16,700 crores;

(c) the total amount earmarked each year upto 2008-09;

(d) the States which have been covered during 2004-05;

(e) what is the amount earmarked for 2005-06 to Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) in how many areas this scheme has been started in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) The proposal to enact a Central Legislation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which aims to enhance livelihood security to poor households in rural areas by providing atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every poor household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labour, is under consideration of the Government.