

Progress of works under PMGSY and achievement of targets set there under *inter-alia* depends upon the implementation capacity of States and availability of funds.

Account auditing of funds released under MGNREGS

773. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government released 1.08 lakh crores to States under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) since February 2006, but did not carry out any account auditing at any level;

(b) whether Government has got the matter examined;

(c) whether Government has issued any directions to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, Financial Audit is mandatory. Funds are released by the Central Government to the States/UTs on receipt of Audit Report of the Chartered Accountant and Utilisation Certificate for the previous year showing utilisation of atleast 60% of the available funds alongwith other necessary documents.

Pension schemes for widows, old and unemployed

†774. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is running any pension scheme for widows, the old and the unemployed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount being provided under these schemes at present;

(d) whether Government is considering doubling this amount; and

(e) if so, what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Three pension schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) are implemented for persons belonging to families living below poverty line, namely Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS). No separate pension scheme is being implemented for the unemployed persons.

(b) and (c) IGNOAPS is meant for BPL persons of 65 years of age and above, IGNWPS for BPL widows in the age group of 40-64 years and IGNDPS for BPL persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-64 years. Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs.200/- per beneficiary per month is provided under these pensions schemes and further State have been urged to contribute at least an equal amount.

(d) and (e) A decision regarding increasing the amount of central assistance under pension schemes has not been taken.

Biometric device in rural job scheme

775. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a hand held biometric device in rural job schemes to authenticate attendance of workers and to make onsite payment of wages etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The process of operationalisation of the national guidelines of bio-metric identification of workers and for making onsite payment of wages using hand held biometric devices has been started.

DEMAND FOR A DISCUSSION ON KILLINGS OF SIKHS AT HONDH CHILLAR VILLAGE IN HARYANA

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखण्ड): उपसभापति महोदय... (व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: Papers lay करने दीजिए।... (व्यवधान)...