(a) whether persons enrolled under various welfare schemes of the Central and State Governments are eligible to draw benefits under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) too;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken note of MGNREGS beneficiaries claiming benefits under various welfare schemes of the Central and State Governments in certain States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the further action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides a legal guarantee for atleast 100 days of wage employment to every rural household in every financial year whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Therefore, all adults, irrespective of their being enrolled under welfare schemes of the Union and State Governments, can avail benefits under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA subject to an overall ceiling of 100 days of employment per household in every financial year for doing unskilled manual work on demand.

(d) Does not arise.

Waiving of conditions of bridge length under PMGSY in NE States

760. SHRI KUMAR DEEPEK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of roads without concrete bridge constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for the reasons of restricting the length of the bridge to 50 meter in NE Region;

(b) whether this restriction will be waived off as NE States are under special category States of the country ; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) The primary objective of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is to provide single all-weather road connectivity to unconnected eligible habitations as per programme

guidelines and instructions issued from time to time. Minor bridges on these roads, where necessary, are also constructed, for which funding upto 50 meter (75 meter in the case Left Wing Extremism [LWE] affected districts) is made by the Ministry and the pro-rata costs beyond 50m is to be borne by the State Government. However, there is no restriction on the length of bridges to be constructed on these roads.

New BPL census

761. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with Government to include more number of families in the list of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government proposes to conduct a new BPL census in view of huge differences in the earlier statistics to arrive at a realistic list of people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal pending to include more number of families in the list of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL). The Planning Commission has already decided that identification of beneficiaries for the schemes targeting for the BPL population would be done using the new poverty estimates for 2004-05 recommended by the Expert Group headed by Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development provide financial and technical support to States/UTs for conducting the BPL Census to identify the rural households living Below the Poverty Line. For conducting the next BPL Census, an Expert Group to advise the Ministry on the methodology was constituted on 12th August, 2008. The Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena submitted its report on 21st August 2009. The recommendations of the Expert Group and other alternative options were tested through a pilot socio-economic survey and a corroborating Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise in order to finalize the methodology for the BPL Census. The methodology so prepared for conducting the BPL Census 2011 is under process for obtaining due approval.