

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