

(c) whether it is a fact that new daily wages are different for various States where as the original wage under this scheme for the whole country @ 100/- was uniform; and

(d) if so, the reasons for deviation from the original uniform rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has revised the wages for unskilled manual workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA by indexing the notified wage rate to the Consumer Price Index for agricultural labour.

(c) Since inception of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, various States have had different wage rate under the Act.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

PMGSY in Jharkhand

772. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages of 250 habitations of tribes are yet to be connected under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) by when all the villages of Jharkhand would be having network of PMGSY roads;

(c) whether all the habitations are included in the core network of PMGSY; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the scheme will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) As per criteria laid down in the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) programme guidelines for providing road connectivity to unconnected habitations in tribal (schedule V) areas, there are 1,970 habitations with population of 250-499 person which are yet to be provided connectivity under programme.

(b) to (d) The Core Network had been finalized in consultation with the State Government of Jharkhand. However, now the Government of Jharkhand has requested the Ministry for its revision.

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