

(b) and (c) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based legislation. Funds are released to the States based on labour demand arising at the field level. Central Government had released a sum of Rs. 30,002.00 crore to the States/UTs up to 31.12.2010. States are required to submit their labour budgets based on physical and financial performance of the State in the previous financial year. Central Government releases funds to the States as per the projections made in the approved labour budget. First installment is released in April/May subject to a minimum of 50% of agreed labour budget after adjusting the opening balance available with the State/districts. For second installment, the States are required to submit their release proposals along with utilization certificates showing utilization of atleast 60% of the available resources. Funds can be released to the States/UTs out of the budget allocation made for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for a year upto 31st March.

Use of machines in MGNREGS

†1379. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several complaints have been received regarding use of machines instead of labourers under 'MGNREGS' throughout the country;

(b) whether it is also fact that due to large scale use of machines, the right of employment to labourers is being violated; and

(c) if so, the details of the complaints and the action being taken to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received complaints regarding use of machinery in different States under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

(b) Para 12 of Schedule-I of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides that as far as practicable, a task funded under the Scheme shall be performed by using manual labour and not machines. Therefore, use of machinery constitutes violation of the Act.

(c) A total of 98 complaints regarding use of machinery under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA have so far been received. As implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned States for taking appropriate action as per law. States have been instructed to strictly follow the provisions of the Act during its implementation.

Unemployment allowance due under MGNREGS

1380. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.