

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has requested the Central Government for additional allocation of funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) over the above normal allocation by according special category status to Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the quantum of additional allocations under NRDWP likely to be provided during the current financial year; and

(c) whether Government is considering any proposal for revision of the existing criteria for allocation under NRDWP in the ensuing Budget 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan had requested the Government of India in 2009 to accord special category status to Rajasthan by providing special annual assistance of Rs. 3,045 crore for the next eight years in addition to existing allocation being made to the State. This was considered and the State Government was informed that the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation had not accorded special category status to any State and there was no provision under the scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to accord special category status to any State.

A similar request was made to the Planning Commission by the State Government. The Planning Commission has informed that special category status for allocation of central assistance to State Plans has generally been accorded in the past to States on the basis of a set of criteria that *inter-alia* include hilly and difficult terrain, low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighboring countries, economic and infrastructural backwardness and nonviable nature of State finances. The Planning Commission has therefore communicated its view to the State Government that for any State seeking special category status on account of State specific problems, it would be more appropriate to provide financial assistance/additional central assistance etc. as has been the practice so far, on a case to case basis rather than change the definition of 'Special Category State'.

Release of additional funds, over and above the normal allocation under NRDWP, is considered based on physical and financial performance of the States, availability of savings towards the end of the year, capacity of the State to absorb more funds and submission of audited statement of accounts. Also the States have to give request for additional funds.

(c) No, Sir.

Linking of MGNREGS with UID

2170. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

3.00 P.M.

(a) whether Government has a proposal to link the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) with UID in any manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has a plan to make possession on a UID number, a condition for getting a job card or any other entitlements or facility under MGNREGS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to collect the UID compliant Bio-metric data base of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Monitoring Mechanism of MGNREGS

3. Shri Y.S. CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any monitoring agency to evaluate the performance and for checking the misuse of funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) to what extent monitoring has helped the implementation of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry regularly monitors the performance of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The following mechanism has been put in place to monitor its performance and for checking misuse of funds across the country:—

(i) Independent Monitoring and verification by National Level Monitors (NLM) and Area Officers on regular basis. In cases of specific complaints, NLMs are deputed by the