

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development has released Rs. 270 lakhs as first installment to 16 Districts in Chhattisgarh for the creation of 48 Village Haats during 2008-09. Subsequently, Rs. 168.75 lakhs has been released to 10 districts as second installment for the creation of Village Haats in Chhattisgarh.

Linking of NSDC with MGNREGS

3716. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has not led to the creation of physical infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering any proposals to link the functioning of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with the MGNREGS;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of steps taken by Government to create more jobs for MGNREGS labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor is also an important objective of the Act. During 2010-11 as reported by States/UTs, about 50.95 lakh works under MGNREGA were in progress and 25.90 lakh works were completed.

(c) and (d) No Sir. MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee of wage employment to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work subject to an overall ceiling of 100 days of employment per household in every financial year. MGNREGA does not provide guarantee for skill development or skilled employment. However, the skill development initiatives of the Government through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) can in general address the

skill gaps/shortages in the country, including requirement of technical and skilled manpower for implementation of MGNREGA.

(e) The focus of activities under MGNREGA for wage employment is laid down in Schedule - I of the Act. Addition of activities/works in consultation with the State Governments for employment generation under MGNREGA from time to time, is an ongoing process. The activities for provision of horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to Below Poverty Line families or that of small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level, were included in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act accordingly, for expanding scope of works under MGNREGA.

Guidelines for determining poverty line

3717. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to re-draw the guidelines to determine the poverty line; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission, as the nodal agency, estimates poverty on the basis of recommendations made by the Expert Committees as accepted by the Government. The method for estimation of poverty has been reviewed by the Planning Commission from time to time. The Expert Committee constituted by the Planning Commission to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the chairmanship of Prof. S.D. Tendulkar submitted its report in December, 2009. The Planning Commission has accepted the poverty ratios and the poverty lines computed by this Committee for the year 2004-05. As per Tendulkar Committee Report, the national Poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs.446.68 per capita per month in the rural areas and Rs.578.80 per capita per month in urban areas. The resulting estimate of the all-India rural poverty head count ratio for 2004-05 is placed at 41.8 percent, urban poverty head count ratio at 25.7 percent and 37.2 percent at all-India level.