

clearances, removal of encroachments and availability of Right of Way (ROW), ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.

- This Ministry has advised the States to constitute the Central Sector Projects Coordination Committee (CSPCC) under respective Chief Secretaries to facilitate Central Sector Projects in the States;
- Faster appraisal through departmental Committees like Expanded Railway Board in lieu of PIB;
- Setting up of Standing Committees by the Government in the Ministries/Departments headed by respective Additional Secretaries to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;
- Appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure;
- Adoption of computer network based monitoring; and
- Organising training courses and seminars on project planning, monitoring and project management for project managers of CPSUs by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

#### **Expenditure incurred on stone laying ceremonies**

\*195. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foundation stone laying ceremonies observed during 2009-10 and 2010-11; and

(b) the expenditure incurred during the above period on foundation stone laying ceremonies, date-wise and ceremony-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Effect of MNREGA on agriculture**

†\*196. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are compelled to quit farming due to shortage of agricultural labourers engaged in MNREGA;

(b) whether it would affect foodgrain production in future;

(c) whether small farmers are compelled to do farming of eucalyptus and poplar due to non-availability of agricultural labourers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the steps being contemplated by Government to overcome the crisis of foodgrain shortage in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. There have been no reports of farmers quitting farming due to shortage of agricultural labourers engaged under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS).

(b) Foodgrain production has been growing at an average rate of 2.90 per cent over the past four years and total foodgrain production in the country has increased from 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 241.56 million tonnes in 2010-11 (4th Advance Estimates) during which period MGNREGA has been in operation.

(c) There are no reports suggesting that small farmers are compelled to do farming of eucalyptus and poplar due to non availability of agricultural labourers. To make small holder farming viable, Integrated Farming System is being advocated under various Government Schemes and Programs which includes development of Agro forestry, dairying and livestock etc. to diversify the agricultural profile of the small holder farmers.

(d) A number of measures have been planned and successfully implemented to meet the growing demand of foodgrains of the increasing population. These measures include increased investment in agriculture sector, targeted food crop development schemes and policy support through increased Minimum Support Price and development of agricultural markets.

**Cancellation of licences of telecom operators failing to  
discharge responsibilities**

†\*197. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference of opinion between the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) over the issue of cancelling licences on account of failure of telecom operators to discharge fixed responsibilities;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the number of licences recommended for cancellation by TRAI and the Department, respectively; and

(c) the reasons for the said differences?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) TRAI *vide* its letters dated 18th November 2010 and 22nd December, 2010 recommended for cancellation of 43 Unified Access Service (UAS) licenses as per licence conditions and to seriously consider the cancellation of another 31 UAS

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