

- (a) the percentage of PMGSY roads that are inspected in the States;
  - (b) the details of the inspecting agencies;
  - (c) whether PMGSY roads are mostly substandard and do not adhere to the specification;
- and
- (d) in what manner the timely and quality construction of the PMGSY roads would be ensured especially in tribal and LWE areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) As per the PMGSY programme guidelines, ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Governments. Accordingly, the State Governments set up Quality Control Units and the State Quality Monitors (SQMs) engaged by these Units carry out periodic inspections. As the third tier of the Quality Control Structure, the National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are also engaged for inspection of some road works on random basis for quality monitoring.

(c) The reports of substandard quality of works received from the public and public representatives are sent to the States for appropriate actions. In some cases NQMs are also deployed to investigate the complaints. In addition to this, the uploading of SQMs quality grading of items along with digital photographs by the States has been linked to release of programme funds.

(d) Certain steps have been taken for IAP districts, like reduction of package size of contracts to Rs. 50 lakhs, e-tendering and full funding for bridges upto 75 meters by Central Government to facilitate quality and timely construction including LWE and tribal areas in these districts.

#### **Reform in MGNREGS**

2311. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government feels any need to reform the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the reasons as identified by Government;
- (c) whether Government plans to reform MGNREGS in near future; and
- (d) if so, the details of the reforms as envisaged by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (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. All State Governments are required to provide employment and make wage payment to the beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Modifications and changes required in the scheme to improve performance and to make it more effective are carried out from time to time in consultation with State Governments and other agencies as provided in the Act. This is a continuous process. Some of the changes made in the recent past are given below:

- (i) Permissible administrative expenditure limit has been enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for MGNREGA, strengthening of management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and ICT infrastructure.
- (ii) In accordance with Section 6(1) of the Act, the Government has revised the wages for unskilled manual workers in respect of all States and Union Territories under MGNREGA, by indexing the notified wage rate to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour.
- (iii) States have been instructed to establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for greater flexibility in management of funds for MGNREGS.
- (iv) For convergence of MGNREGS with other development programmes of the Government which have similar target groups, convergence guidelines have been developed and disseminated by the Ministry for several other development schemes.
- (v) Amendments to para 1 of Schedule I of MGNREG Act have been carried out from time to time to enlarge the scope of works and activities that can be taken up.
- (vi) Information and Communication technology (ICT) based MIS has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny including job cards, muster rolls, employment demanded and number of days worked, shelf of works, funds available/spent, social audit findings, registering grievances etc.
- (vii) State Governments have been advised to make use of ICT enabled models like Business Correspondent, Rural ATM, handheld devices, smart cards, bio-metrics, mobile banking etc., for easy wage payments to MGNREGA workers.
- (viii) In consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 has been notified on 30th June, 2011.