

### **Introduction of bio-metric smart cards for MGNREGS**

3100. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is exploring introduction of biometric smart cards to stop misappropriation of funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the timeline for achievement of 100 per cent coverage of about 11 crore job card holders under the MGNREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development has formulated a concept for introduction of bio-metric attendance for workers of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The use of bio-metrics is contemplated to address need for greater accountability and transparency in implementation of MGNREGA and reduce irregularities and complaints relating to false entries in muster rolls, ghost and bogus workers, etc. No time limit has been fixed for launch of introduction of bio-metric attendance system. With a view to ensuring timely payment, infusing transparency and enhancing the integrity of wage payment under MGNREGA, Schedule II of MGNREGA Act has been amended to make wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through institutional accounts in Banks or Post Offices a statutory requirement. To strengthen the institutional outreach for MGNREGA wage disbursement, it has also been decided that State Governments will roll out the Business Correspondent Model to make wage payment through Banks with Bio-metric authentication at village level on competitive bid basis from Banks by inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)/Request for Qualification (RFQ).

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12.00 NOON

### **STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTIONS**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to express regret that, while replying to a supplementary question, I had made a wrong statement. I had stated, in reply to a question whether it should be the minimum wage