

1	2	3	4	5	6
31.	Goa	63549	12207	38	12245
32.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
33.	Puducherry	1	16409	0	16409
34.	Chandigarh	4	0	0	0
TOTAL:		117470217	48138069	7039167	55177236

Inclusion of farm activities under MGNREGS

145. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the States have requested the Central Government to allow them for giving seasonal jobs to guard the crops under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand to bring fencing of field/land under MGNREGS works; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The focus of activities under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for wage employment is laid down in Schedule-I of the Act. The choice of works suggested in the Act addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion, so that the process of employment generation is maintained on a sustainable basis and durable assets are created in rural areas by strengthening the natural resource base. Addition of new activities/works in consultation with the State Governments for employment generation under MGNREGA from time to time, is an ongoing process. The demand for allowing seasonal jobs to guard the crops and to bring fencing of field/land under MGNREGA works was not accepted because such works do not strengthen the natural resource base of livelihood and create durable assets in rural areas.

Channeling of funds for PMGSY

146. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Impact Assessment Report of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

(PMGSY) notes the delay in release of money to the contractors by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) hampers the timely construction;

(b) if so, the reasons for delays in fund flow;

(c) whether Government has taken into account the recommendation of placing the funds for the construction directly with the works department; and

(d) what steps Government has taken to monitor quality in construction of rural roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) The funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are placed with the State Rural Roads Development Agencies at State level. The funds under PMGSY are released to the States as per PMGSY guidelines, keeping in view the pace of implementation, level of spending and the unspent balance available with the State.

(d) Ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Governments who are implementing the programme. Accordingly, the State Governments set up Quality Control Units and the State Quality Monitors (SQMs) engaged by these Units carry out periodic inspections. In addition, National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are also engaged for inspection of some of the road works on random basis for monitoring.

Removal of ceiling on poverty estimation

147. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has called for removal of ceiling on poverty estimation which restrict the number of poor who can claim benefits from Government schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government feels that there should be a prescribed limit on poverty estimation as poverty level differ from State to State and BPL survey also increases poverty numbers every time; and

(d) the details of Tendulkar Committee's recommendation which are likely to be accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) A Joint Statement issued on 3rd October 2011 by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development wherein it is stated that the present State-wise poverty estimates using the Planning Commission methodology will not be used to impose any ceilings on the number of households to be included in different Government programmes and schemes.