

done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action, including investigation, as per law.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Delayed payment or non-payment of MGNREGS wage

924. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received regarding non-payment or delayed payments to the beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of irregularities have been detected in implementation of MGNREGS in some States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) A total of 2574 complaints regarding irregularities of all types in implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country have been received in the Ministry as on 10.11.2011. The complaints mainly relate to cases of job cards not provided, misappropriation of funds, engagement of contractors, forgery of muster roll, manipulation in job cards, under payment of wages, non-payment of wages, corruption and other irregularities, use of machinery, delay in payments etc. Out of 2574 complaints, 222 cases relating to non payment or delayed payment of wages have been raised. As implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action, including investigation, as per law. The Ministry has been reminding State Governments about their duty under the Act to have the serious complaints investigated and take necessary action and to ensure that in cases of misappropriation and embezzlement of Government funds not only disciplinary action should be taken against the guilty officials but simultaneously criminal prosecution should also be initiated under Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act, besides recovering the amount involved from the persons concerned in accordance with law.

The steps taken by the Government to ensure that funds released for MGNREGA are utilised in transparent and efficient manner include the following:—

(i) In consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 have been notified.

- (ii) With a view to ensuring timely payment, infusing transparency and enhancing the integrity of wage payment, Schedule-II of MGNREG Act has been amended to make wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through institutional accounts in Banks or Post Offices a statutory requirement unless specifically exempted.
- (iii) To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, it has been decided that State Governments should 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).
- (iv) Permissible administrative expenditure limit was enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for MGNREGA, strengthening management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure.
- (v) States have been instructed to establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for greater flexibility in management of funds for MGNREGA.
- (vi) 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) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.
- (viii) The mechanism of State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees is available for monitoring of the scheme.

Better road connectivity in rural areas

925. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is committed to provide quality roads for better connectivity in rural areas; and
- (b) the progress made in this regard in each State during the last two years especially in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) As per the Programme Guidelines, ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Governments who are implementing the programme. A Three Tier Quality Mechanism has been put in place for ensuring the quality of road works under the