

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 and Auditor General of India, MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 has been notified on 30th June, 2011. All States have been asked to put in place a robust Social Audit mechanism as outlined in the Rules.
- (ix) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.

Diversion of MGNREGS funds by States

†929. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the States which have spent the funds allocated for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) or other schemes; and
- (b) the action taken to curb such types of incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) No specific report of States spending funds meant for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on other Schemes has been received in the Ministry. The Ministry receives a large number of complaints of all types about implementation of MGNREGA in the country. 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. As implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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. As per Section 18 of the Act, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to make available to the District Programme Coordinator and the Programme Officers necessary staff and technical support as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the Scheme. Therefore, the concerned State Government is the appropriate authority to take action against officers or agencies responsible for the irregularities.

The steps taken/being taken by the Government to check irregularities in MGNREGA include the following:—

- (i) In consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 have been notified. All States have been asked to put in place a robust Social Audit mechanism as outlined in the Rules.
- (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) 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.
- (vi) The mechanism of State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees is available for monitoring of the scheme.

Creation of water bodies in rural areas

930. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in many villages in the country, villagers have constructed water bodies collectively without any Government help and solved their water problem;