

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 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 Ministry of Rural Development has also requested for consent of the State Government for enquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into irregularities to uncover any systemic and large scale misuse or misappropriation of MGNREGA funds. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed the Ministry of Rural Development that the complaints are inquired into and penal action is taken against the guilty. Recently, the State has asked the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) to investigate the complaints in procurement of material in district Balrampur, Gonda and Mahoba. EOW has also been requested to investigate complaints regarding work by an implementing agency in districts of Chitrakoot, Sultanpur and Mathura. The State Government has informed that the State is constantly making endeavours for speedy disposal of complaints and severe penal action has been ensured against guilty officials in cases of complaints found true. As per report from the State Government, action has been taken against 99 officials and 28 Gram Pradhans in Sonbhadra District.

Social audit of rural development schemes

923. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is alleged corruption in the implementation of rural job guarantee scheme MGNREGS;

(b) whether it is also a fact that social audit has brought about transparency in the scheme;

(c) if so, whether Government would agree to social audit of other schemes to ensure transparency in all kinds of Government expenditure; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) 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. 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.

(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 mis-appropriation 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.