

(i) imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and (ii) domestically produced gas from New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and pre-NELP fields. While the price of LNG imported under term contracts is governed by the Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) between the LNG seller and the buyer, the spot cargoes are purchased on mutually agreeable commercial terms. As regards NELP and pre-NELP gas, its pricing is governed in terms of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the contractor.

Proposal for raising MGNREGS wages

*98. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is actively considering to raise the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) from present Rs.150 per day to Rs.300 per day as demanded by various people's organisations and political parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is reducing the allocation under the scheme to States on the pretext of non-utilization of fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken by Government so that all the State Governments take proper steps for full utilization of sanctioned grant under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e): Provisions of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are effected as demand driven schemes, to be prepared and implemented by the State Governments. There is no allocation of funds to States. Funds are released to States as per their requirements which is assessed on the basis of advance projection of labour demand., MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee of wage employment to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work subject to an overall ceiling of 100 days of employment per household in every financial year. Para 1 of Schedule-II of MGNREG Act stipulates that adult members of every household who reside in rural areas and are willing to do unskilled manual work may apply for registration of their household for issuance of a job card. However, under the Act, mere issuance of a job card does not entitle a household to receive employment. Under Para 9 of Schedule II of the Act, the household also has to submit application for work to be entitled to receive employment. As employment

is provided on demand, households provided employment and utilization of funds by the States/UTs depend on demand for employment.

Exponential rise in anaemia cases

99. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government has been seized of the findings of the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3), carried out during 2005-06 showing exponential rise in the instances of anaemia among children, married and pregnant women in the country;

(b) if so, the rationale behind such shameful index of the basic human development in the country *vis-a-vis* the economic growth trajectory propounded repeatedly by Government and projected by the Planning Commission for years; and

(c) the steps contemplated for achieving time-bound improvement in the situation detailing the mechanism dedicated, if any, for achieving the target and reviewing the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the prevalence of anaemia in children, married women and pregnant women in the country shows an increase in National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-III conducted during 2005-06 in comparison to NFHS-II conducted in 1998-99 as per following details:

Category	Prevalence of anaemia	
	NFHS II (1998-99)	NFHS III (2005-06)
Children (6-35 months)	74.3%	78.9%
Married women	51.8%	55.3%
Pregnant women	49.7%	58.7%

The cause of anaemia is multifactorial and various reasons include (a) inadequate intake of food (cereals, pulses, meat products) and vegetables rich in iron and folate, (b) poor bio-availability of iron in diet, (c) high incidence of hookworm infestation and (d) high incidence of malaria.

(c) The Reproductive and Child Health Programme under the umbrella of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is implementing various interventions for prevention and control of anaemia among, children and pregnant women. These interventions are:

1. Universal screening of pregnant women for anaemia as part of antenatal care and supplementation with iron and folic acid tablets to all pregnant and lactating women. Pregnant and lactating women are