

**CAG report on implementation of MGNREGS in Odisha**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG has found ghost workers, bunglings in implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Odisha resulting in misappropriation of public money;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any enquiry to find out the guilty officials/persons responsible for this;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of actions taken by Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The CAG, in its draft report submitted to the State Government of Odisha, has pointed out instances of 93 ghost workers in Chandbali and Basudevpur Blocks of Bhadrak District and 54 ghost workers in Bamara Block of Sambalpur District of Odisha in the muster rolls for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). As per the CAG's estimation, payment of Rs. 2,87,913 has been made to these ghost workers.

(c) to (e) Being a part of the draft Report of the performance audit by CAG, these are only tentative findings. As per the settled procedure for performance audit by CAG, the State Government of Odisha will, after due enquiry, respond to the observations made in the draft report. Appropriate action will be taken by the State Government after final findings are known.

**First meeting of NCLR**

613. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Council on Land Reforms (NCLR) has not yet hold its first meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether despite the fact that the Ministry has given its consent, the first meeting of NCLR is still pending;