

(a) whether while releasing “NREGA sameeksha”, Prime Minister is reported to have said that he was not fully satisfied with the way scheme is working;

(b) whether research studies conducted on the programme, under which ₹ 1,10,000 crore has been spent to pay wages to 12 crore people, do not tell whole truth because at present assessment is being made without periodic audit of expenditure incurred on NREGA;

(c) whether Prime Minister has directed Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to sort out the deficiency and gaps in this regards; and

(d) if so, the details of results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) While releasing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Sameeksha, the Prime Minister had highlighted the progress as well as issues and challenges in the implementation of this right based wage employment programme backed by legislation. The recent steps taken by Ministry of Rural Development and Planning Commission in resolving various issues and challenges under MGNREGA were appreciated by the Prime Minister.

The research studies conducted on the programme have assessed programme implementation *vis-a-vis* the provisions in the MGNREG Act and the Guidelines. As per Section 24 of MGNREGA the Central Government may in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, prescribe appropriate arrangements for audits of the accounts of the Schemes at all levels. CAG had conducted performance audit of MGNREGA in the initially notified 200 districts in 2007-08. In consultation with the CAG, the MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 has been notified on 30th June, 2011. Subsequently, the Ministry has also requested for special financial and performance audits by CAG, in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of Planning Commission has already been entrusted to conduct the evaluation study of MGNREGA, which has been prioritized by the Development Evaluation Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission. The main objectives of the study are to assess the impact of the MGNREGA and the quality of assets created under the scheme and to see how far these assets are benefiting people in rural areas.

#### **Appraisal of MGNREGS**

1074. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any appraisal of the extent of the major goals such as political, social and developmental under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have been achieved, so far;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged leakages and misappropriation of funds and resources allotted for the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken to make the programme more effective and corruption free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Research studies conducted in the past on the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) indicate that this wage employment programme, which guarantees upto 100 days of wage employment to rural households on demand, has improved water and soil conservation measures, increased cultivable land by enriching waste lands and has led to improved agricultural productivity. It has also enhanced bargaining powers of rural wage seekers and reduced distress migration from rural areas. Major suggestions/recommendations of these studies, *inter-alia*, are removal of delays in wage payments, improvement in the quality of assets, establishment of strong demand management system, effective participatory grass-root planning, improvement in the overall monitoring of schemes etc. The Expert Committee for Revision of MGNREGA operational Guidelines under the chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission has considered these suggestions and has submitted its recommendations. The recommendations of the Expert Committee have been suitably included in the draft operational guidelines for MGNREGA.

(c) and (d) The Ministry receives references/complaints from elected representatives and general public on misappropriation of funds, corruption and financial and other irregularities under MGNREGA. All such references/complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action as per law since implementation of schemes formulated under Section 4 of MGNREGA is the responsibility of the States/UTs. Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors (NLMs) are also deputed to investigate complaints of serious nature. Upon completion of investigation, their reports are analyzed and findings are forwarded to the State Governments concerned for taking corrective measures. Some of the steps taken to eliminate the occurrence of irregularities in the implementation of MGNREGA are as follows:

- (i) In consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General 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 these 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 provide for wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through accounts in Banks or Post Offices.
- (iii) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) based Management Information System (MIS) has been made operational to make data available for 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.
- (iv) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.
- (v) The State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees are entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of schemes.

**Panchayats for construction of road projects in Naxal hit areas**

1075. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry plans to entrust local Panchayats in the Naxal hit districts with the construction of rural road projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);
- (b) whether the States, particularly Maharashtra, have been take on board on this proposal; and
- (c) if so, the views of the State Governments in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to entrust local Panchayats with the construction of rural road projects in the selected tribal and backward districts under Integrated Action Plan (IAP), as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission, districts under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

**Migration of labourers due to nonpayment of wages**

1076. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to nonpayment of the wages, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), workers are migrating to urban areas;
- (b) whether the Ministry has received any complaints from the States on this issue; and