

- (a) whether Government plans to utilise MGNREGA funds for skill development and rural sanitation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Placement linked skill development component for rural youth under. SGSY/NRLM, provisions have been made for giving preference to MGNREGA beneficiaries who have completed 100 days of wage employment for short term skill development training in partnership with private/non-government organizations, leading to their placement in services and manufacturing sectors in the organized/semi organized enterprises. Schedule-I of MGNREGA as amended from time to time lists the category of works that any Scheme prepared by a State Government under Section 4 (1) of MGNREG Act shall focus upon. *Vide* notification dated 4.5.2012, Schedule I has been substantially expanded to include a large number of additional activities. Rural sanitation related works, such as, individual household latrines, school toilet units, anganwadi toilets, solid and liquid waste management are included as permissible activities under Schedule-I of the MGNREG Act.

Unutilised wages under MGNREGA

1051. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Rs. 4000/- crore of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are lying unutilised in post offices of various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons identified for nonpayment of wages under MGNREGA during the last and current financial year;
- (d) whether serious irregularities in payment of wages under MGNREGA have been detected recently;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of action taken in this regard; and

(g) the details of fresh action Government proposes to take to streamline irregularities in MGNREGA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. To meet the financial requirements at the post office level, a minimum float of funds is a must to liquidate wage bills under MGNREGA as most of the rural areas in the country are not adequately serviced by the commercial bank branches. The Ministry has instructed the States to maintain adequate balance to the tune of an average monthly payments with Head Post Office or District HQ to overcome the problem of large time gap between release of cheque and actual fund availability with the post offices. Hence, maintenance of a corpus fund (minimum balance) in post offices may not be treated as lying 'unutilised'.

(d) to (f) The Ministry receives a large number of complaints about implementation of MGNREGA in the country. The complaints also relate to cases relating to under payment of wages, nonpayment of wages, delay in payments etc. As implementation of the Act is vested with the States/UTs, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the State Governments concerned for taking appropriate action, including investigation, as per law. As per Section 18 of the Act, it is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned 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. In cases of complaints and of mismanagement of funds etc., enquiries are conducted for fixing up responsibility for lapses, if any, and action is initiated against persons found responsible by the State Governments concerned.

(g) The Ministry has emphasized on the establishment of a robust mechanism for redressal of grievances and disposal of complaints in accordance with the provisions of MGNREG Act. The Ministry, on 7th September, 2012, has also issued to all State Governments and Union Territories, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) listing the processes on disposal of complaints.

Work days under MGNREGA

1052. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: