

Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) for strengthening women power Strengthening Agriculture, strengthening women farmers through capacity building and participatory development strategies has been received on 28th February, 2012 in this Ministry from the State Government of Karnataka for consideration. The project is proposed to be implemented by the University of Agriculture Sciences (UAS), Bangalore covering the area of Chikkaballapura district of Karnataka. The desk appraisal and field appraisal have already been conducted for the evaluation of the project proposal. UAS was informed by this Ministry *vide* communication dated 24th September, 2012 that the Project Proposal was deficient on account of non-negotiable of MKSP such as inadequate experience in social mobilization of women. It was also suggested that UAS may form a consortium with an organization which has proven experience in mobilizing women around Self Help Groups over a period of 5-7 years in Karnataka State. The revised Project Proposal has not been submitted by UAS.

Increase in the pension amount under IGNWPS

1826. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), the Ministry provides just Rs. 200 per month to a widow in the age group of 40-59;

(b) if so, how the Ministry thinks that this amount would be enough for sustenances of any widow;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are many demands for increasing the pension; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not increasing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has increased Central assistance under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 300/- per month, *w.e.f.* 01.10.2012. The upper age limit has also been revised to 79 years from the existing 59 years. Hence, IGNWPS now is applicable for widow in the age group of 40-79 years and belonging to household living below poverty line (BPL) as per the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. Further, States have been recommended to contribute at least an equal amount from their own resources.

(c) and (d) The amount of Central assistance under pension schemes are revised from time to time depending upon availability of resources.

Irregularities in MGNREGA

1827. SHRI ANIL DESAI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irregularities detected in distribution of funds related to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during 2010, 2011 and 2012, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the appropriate action taken against errant officials and deterrent punishment meted out to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a demand driven wage employment programme and Central funds are released to the States/UTs/Districts on the basis of agreed to Labour Budget and taking into consideration the performance and utilization of available funds. 1st tranche of Central share under MGNREGA is released to States/UTs/Districts taking into account availability and requirement of funds as per agreed to labour budget subject to settlement of accounts of the financial year before last and 2nd tranche is released provided Utilization Certificates of previous year and current year are submitted. No irregularities have been detected in the release of central share of funds to States/UTs/Districts during 2010, 2011, 2012.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement with leaders of Jan Satyagraha Yatra

1828. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

SHRI D. RAJA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed an agreement with the leaders of the Jan Satyagraha Yatra conducted from Gwalior to Delhi demanding land reforms and other problems being faced by the landless people in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and the steps being taken to implement the same?