

(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A copy of the agreement signed is given in Statement (See below).

As per the agreement, a Task Force on land reforms has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development.

Statement

Agreement on land reforms between the Ministry of Rural Development (GOI) and Jan Satyagraha

1. National Land Reforms Policy: While land reforms is clearly a State subject under the Constitution, the MoRD acknowledges that a National Land Reforms Policy announced by the Central Government could have its own importance. The MoRD will initiate a dialogue with States immediately and put out a draft of this policy for public debate and discussion in the next 4-6 months and to be finalized soon thereafter. The draft Land Reforms Policy prepared by the Jan Satyagraha organized by Ekta Parishad will be an important input into the preparation of this draft. Civil Society Organization will also be actively involved in this exercise.

2. Statutory backing to the provision of agricultural land and Homestead Land: MoRD will proactively initiate dialogue process with States to take up steps on the issue of giving statutory backing (like MGNREGA and FRA) to (a) provision of agricultural land to the landless poor in the backward districts; and (b) provision of Homestead Right to the landless and shelter less poor of rural areas, all over the country, so as to guarantee 10 cents of homestead to every landless and shelter less rural poor household.

3. Homestead Land: MoRD will propose doubling the unit cost to enable provision of 10 cents of land as homestead for every landless and shelter less poor family as a component of the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY).

4. Enhanced Land Access and Land rights for the poor, marginalized and deprived Landless: The MoRD agrees to issue detailed advisories in the next two months exhorting the States to focus on the effective implementation of various laws enacted by legislatures aimed at protecting the land rights of dalits, adivasis and all other weaker and marginalized sections of society. Details of these advisories will be worked out in consultation with civil society organizations active on this issue. MoRD will also, through a set of advisories exhort and support the State Governments to take

up a time-bound Programme, for securing access to land to specific categories of marginalized and deprived landless families.

5. Fast Track Land Tribunals: The MoRD agrees to initiate a dialogue with States to establish Fast Track Land Tribunals/Courts for speedy disposal of the cases pending in revenue and judicial courts. In addition to the Central Scheme for legal aid, States too will be exhorted to extend legal aid to all the persons belonging to socially deprived sections, whose lands are involved in litigation, particularly dalits and tribal communities.

6. Effective Implementation of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA): MoRD will work with the Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Panchayati Raj to complete stakeholder consultations over the next four months so that detailed circulars to States could be issued for ensuring effective implementation of PESA by empowering the Gram Sabhas to exercise the powers given to them under the Act.

7. Effective implementation of Forest Rights Act: Ministry of Tribal Affairs have issued comprehensive set of revised rules on 13th September, 2012 under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Act, 2006. States will be actively exhorted and supported for effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the light of the revised rules and directives issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and in light of suggestions received from civil society organisations.

8. Forest and Revenue Boundary Disputes: MoRD agrees to issue an advisory to States to set up joint teams of Forest and Revenue Departments to undertake a thorough survey of the forest and revenue boundaries to resolve disputes. The Grams Panchayats and Gram Sabhas will be fully involved in the survey and settlement process.

9. Survey, updating of records and governing Common Property Resources: The MoRD will exhort and support the States to carry out survey of Common Property Resources (CPRs) with the direct involvement of the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayats concerned. The States will also be advised to ensure full implementation of recent Supreme Courts' directions on this matter.

10. Task Force on Land Reforms: The MoRD will immediately set up a Task Force on Land Reforms headed by the Union Minister for Rural Development to implement the above agenda. Members of the Task Force will include representatives of MoRD, State Governments, civil society organisations working on land reform issues and all stakeholders concerned.

In light of this Agreement, Jan Satyagraha agrees to discontinue its present march and work with the MoRD to carry forward this agenda.

Sd/-

PV Rajagopal
Jan Satyagraha

Sd/-

Jairam Ramesh
Minister for Rural Development,
Drinking Water and Sanitation,
Government of India

Dated: October 11th, 2012

Agra

Identification of BPL families

1829. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of norms laid down by the Government to identify BPL families;
- (b) the total population of BPL families, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the quantum of foodgrains supplied to State Governments for distribution amongst BPL families and how many BPL families have benefitted therefrom during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (d) details of the schemes/programmes formulated and implemented for the welfare and upliftment of BPL families; and
- (e) how many BPL families have benefitted from those schemes and programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting the BPL Census to identify the families living below the poverty line in the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002 using the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters were used on the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the