

(b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is encouraging setting up of power generation projects from biomass through various technological routes such as combustion, gasification and cogeneration. MNRE has proposed to continue various fiscal and financial incentives such as capital subsidy linked with capacity and fiscal incentives such as concessional customs duty on import of machinery and components, excise duty exemption, accelerated depreciation on major components and relief from taxes which are being provided for setting up of biomass based power projects besides, preferential tariff is being provided for sale of power from biomass power projects during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period. Besides, MNRE is also supporting awareness raising through organizing business meets, seminars and workshops on promotion of biomass power.

(c) A target of 29,800 MW grid interactive renewable power capacity addition, comprising 15,000 MW from wind, 10,000 MW from solar, 2,100 MW from small hydro, 2,000 MW from biomass and 700 MW from urban and industrial waste and 900 MW off grid solar photovoltaic systems which includes 9 million solar lighting systems for rural and urban areas has been proposed for the Twelfth Five Year Plan period.

Extension of pension schemes

2598. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to extend the pension scheme to widows, single and divorced women, disabled people, dalits or tribal senior citizens and also to increase the amount paid to older people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the extended scheme would be put in place for the welfare of the targeted people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, to make recommendations on the criteria for grant of benefits under various schemes of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). The Committee has recommended for relaxation of certain eligibility criteria for old age, widows and disability pensions

and increase in amount to various categories of vulnerable sections including single and divorced women. No decision has been taken on the Report of the committee.

Construction of District Haat at Dharwad in Karnataka

2599. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to construct District Haat at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.50 crore at Dharwad has been pending with Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the date of receipt of the proposal;
- (c) the reasons for the delay in giving the approval; and
- (d) by when it would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Since the Project under SGSY for providing Comprehensive Marketing Intervention and Support for the rural poor (Haat Bazaar) introduced in March, 2002 was not doing well in some States, a decision has been taken in May, 2012 to get the project evaluated by a third party. Accordingly, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) has been entrusted to evaluate the project and submit its report. The Report is awaited. Decision on the proposal received on 02.07.2010 for setting up of District Haat at Dharwad with an estimated cost of Rs. 1.50 crore will be taken after examination of the Report.

Specifications of roads under PMGSY

2600. SHRI PANKAJ BORA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for thickness and width of roads being constructed in rural areas under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the criteria for allocation of funds to the States;
- (b) whether Government proposes to modify this criterion and if so, the details thereof;