

Complaints of corruption under MGNREGA in Bihar

†2605. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that many complaints of corruption have been received in the works being done under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Bihar;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to address these complaints;

(c) whether similar complaints have been received from other States of the country as well; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to address them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) The Ministry receives a number of complaints from States including Bihar on implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The complaints mainly relate to cases of job cards not provided, misappropriation of funds, engagement of contractors, forgery of muster roll, manipulation in job cards, underpayment of wages, non-payment of wages, use of machinery, delay in payments, corruption and other irregularities. 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. Review and monitoring of the programme implementation by independent monitoring, verification by the national level monitors, inspection tours of the members of Central Employment Guarantee Council, State and District level vigilance committees along with Social audit, appointment of ombudsman are steps taken to reduce complaints of corruption for the proper implementation of the programme by the States. As per the provision in Section 27(2) of the MGNREGA, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with complaints has also been issued on 7th September, 2012 for strict compliance by the State Governments.

Conversion of cultivable waste land into agricultural land

2606. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the details of the agricultural land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the cultivable waste land in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to convert cultivable waste land into agricultural land and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the cultivable waste land converted into agricultural land, State-wise during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) and (b) The details of agricultural land and cultivable waste land in the country, State-wise are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Various Watershed Development programmes such as National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR) and Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture for enhancing production and productivity of degraded lands. Further, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three area development programmes *viz.* Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) since 1995-96 on watershed basis. The above three programmes have been integrated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) *w.e.f.* 26.02.2009 for development of rainfed/degraded areas.

(d) As per the information of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, no information on cultivable wasteland converted into agricultural land is available. However, a project on Wasteland Change Analysis between 2005-06 and 2008-09 was given by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development to National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad to understand the dynamics of wastelands through comparison of spatial statistics. The findings of the project have been published as Wastelands Atlas of India 2011. As per this Atlas, 19661.22 square kilometers of different categories of wastelands have been converted into crop land (including fallow land) between 2005-06 and 2008-09.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise agricultural land and cultivable wasteland during 2009-10

(Area in 000' ha.)

Sl. No.	State	Agricultural land	Cultivable wasteland
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15921	647
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	424	64
3.	Assam	3211	77
4.	Bihar	6601	45
5.	Chhattisgarh	5570	351
6.	Goa	197	53
7.	Gujarat	12680	1979
8.	Haryana	3730	29
9.	Himachal Pradesh	824	136
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1058	149
11.	Jharkhand	4288	336
12.	Karnataka	12891	413
13.	Kerala	2303	98
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17298	1147
15.	Maharashtra	21130	917
16.	Manipur	240	I
17.	Meghalaya	1052	394
18.	Mizoram	415	7
19.	Nagaland	671	43

1	2	3	4
20.	Odisha	7126	375
21.	Punjab	4206	3
22.	Rajasthan	25569	4475
23.	Sikkim	98	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	8131	326
25.	Tripura	310	1
26.	Uttarakhand	1548	309
27.	Uttar Pradesh	19148	431
28.	West Bengal	5684	31
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	28	3
30.	Chandigarh	2	0
31.	Delhi	53	10
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	24	0
33.	Daman and Diu	4	0
34.	Lakshadweep	3	0
35.	Puducherry	30	4
GRAND TOTAL:		182468	12857

Source: Land use statistics at a glance, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

CBI enquiry into irregularities under MGNREGA in Bihar

†2607. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irregularities on a large scale are taking place

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.