

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is willing to provide full funding for Gram Panchayat and block level Kendras under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the State Schedule of Rates (SoRs)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) The construction cost of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra (BNRGSK) under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), as per indicative design prescribed in the guidelines varies from place to place. However, it was estimated to be around Rs. 10 lakh for BNRGSK at Gram Panchayat level and around Rs. 25 lakh at Block level.

(b) Expenditure up to the above estimated cost can be funded under MGNREGA as per norms for sharing of costs between Centre and State. Expenditure above the estimated amount has to be met from other schemes/programmes of the State Governments.

Irregularities under MGNREGA in Jharkhand

754. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that serious irregularities have been surfaced in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Jharkhand and records are being manipulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any disciplinary action has been initiated on the erring officials resorting to manipulation and misappropriation thereby causing serious threat to the implementation of funds released under MGNREGA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry receives a large number of complaints about implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country. 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, under payment of wages, non-payment of wages, corruption and other irregularities, use of machinery, delay in payments etc. In Jharkhand 9 VIP and 65 general complaints are pending for disposal.

(c) and (d) As implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action, including investigation, as per law. Further as per the provisions in Section 27(2) of MGNREGA, the Central Government may, on receipt of any complaint regarding lack of effective implementation of the provisions of the Act or regarding the improper utilization of funds granted under this Act, order an investigation into the complaint and if necessary, shall order stoppage of release of funds to the State if no appropriate remedial measures are instituted for proper implementation within a reasonable period of time as defined by the Central Government. The Ministry, on 7th September, 2012 has issued to all State Governments and Union Territories, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for application of the provision of Section 27(2) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Desert Development Programme in Rajasthan

†755. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the border districts in Rajasthan are included under the Desert Development Programme (DDP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the expenditure made for this programme during the last three years and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA) : (a) and (b) Out of four border districts, three districts namely Barmer, Bikaner and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan are included under the Desert Development Programme (DDP). District Shri Ganganagar is not included under DDP.

(c) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Rajasthan, the District-wise and Year-wise details of expenditure during the last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*). The outcome thereof are: checking further desertification through wind erosion; increased crop and fodder production; better animal husbandry conditions and better water conservation and management practices resulting in better living conditions of human beings and livestock.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.