

habitations in the Core Network in the rural areas with a population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 census) in plain areas and 250 persons and above (as per 2001 census) in Hill States, the Desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme), the Tribal (Schedule V) areas and selected Tribal and Backward Districts as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission under Integrated Action Plan (IAP). The Ministry has recently issued a sanction to Andhra Pradesh under Phase-X- Batch-II (New Connectivity) of PMGSY amounting to Rs. 452.31 crores for 154 road works and 34 Long Span Bridges covering 735. 16 km length.

Foodgrains provided under MGNREGA

4303. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to provide foodgrains instead of cash amount to the workers under MGNREGA particularly in the drought affected States like Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment in land ceiling laws

4304. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sent a proposal for amendment in land ceiling laws to State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of State Governments thereto;

(c) whether Government has proposed for land ceilings on 5 acres of land;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons and rationale for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has sent two advisories to the States. The First Advisory lists measures to provide free legal assistance to the poor by establishing community based paralegal programmes. The Second Advisory relates to specific issues concerning access to land for the poor that need resolution within the concerned State. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been advised to re-visit the land ceiling laws to consider refixing the exemption given to plantation companies to eliminate loopholes and secure more land for distribution among the landless poor. Further, Government has received response from State Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Haryana and Chhattisgarh. The matter is being looked into by them.

(c) to (e) The Government of India has advised the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to amend the existing land ceiling law and fix the land ceiling for double cropped irrigated lands as five acres.

Delay in implementation of MGNREGA projects

4305. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Minister is aware that 43.6 per cent of the approved projects, *i.e.* 1,77,714 out of a total of 4,07,432 projects, under MGNREGA are yet to be initiated by Karnataka Government;
- (b) if so, whether any enquiry/action has been initiated in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The information as reported by the State of Karnataka indicates that out of a total of 585802 works approved under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 52561 works have since been completed and 353303 works are ongoing. Around 179938 works which