received in the Ministry. However, references have been received from the Government of Punjab requesting to enhance wage rate for Punjab to bring it at par with that of Haryana. The wage rate fixed by the States as on 01.12.2008 for unskilled agriculture labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, was adopted and notified as the wage rate under Section 6(1) of the MGNREG Act *vide* Government of India Notification dated 1st January, 2009. This has formed the basis of all subsequent revision of wage rates as per the settled wage policy under MGNREGA. Since, all the states had fixed different minimum wages as on 01.12.2008 depending upon demand and supply of labour, their economic capacity and other state specific variations, the wage rate under MGNREGA varies from State to State. Wage rates under MGNREGA for two States are therefore not comparable and there is no discretion with the Ministry to bring them at par for various States/UTs.

Fast Track Courts for scams in MGNREGA

1512. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court on 8th November, 2012, while delivering a judgment, favoured establishment of special Fast Track Courts to handle cases linked to various scams in implementation of the rural job guarantee schemes under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in different States;

(b) if so, the States and districts where MGNREGA is being implemented and the States and districts where MGNREGA schemes are not being implemented along with the action taken to complete the process in entire country;

(c) whether payments are made under MGNREGA, either through banking or postal services, where banking facilities are not available; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per Sections 3(2) and 3(3) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), every person who has done the work given to him shall be entitled to receive wages at the wage rate for each day of

work and the disbursement of daily wages shall be made on a weekly basis or in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which such work was done. All State Governments are required to make wage payment to MGNREGA workers in accordance with the provisions of the Act. With a view to ensuring timely payment, infusing transparency and enhancing the integrity of wage payment, Schedule II of MGNREG Act has been amended to make wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through accounts in Banks or Post Offices. To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, it has been decided that State Governments should roll out the Business Correspondent (BC) Model to make wage payment through Banks with Bio-metric authentication at village level. Cash wage payment have been allowed subject to certain condition in areas where the outreach of banks/post offices in inadequate.

Criteria for identification of roads under PMGSY

†1513.DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for identification of roads for construction under PMGSY in general and scheduled areas;

(b) the details of population criteria in those areas;

(c) whether roads are being constructed in Madhya Pradesh after selecting areas accordingly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to connect the eligible unconnected habitations in accordance with a set of stipulated Guidelines. The Programme envisages to provide connectivity to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network in the rural areas with a Census (2001) population of 500 persons and above in plain areas and 250 persons and above in Hill States, Tribal (Schedule V) areas, the Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and in the 82 Selected Tribal and Backward districts as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission under Integrated Action Plan (IAP). Upgradation of selected rural roads to provide full farm to market connectivity is also an objective of the scheme, though not central to it. Accordingly, the States had prepared their Core-Network, Comprehensive New Connectivity Priority List (CNCPL) and Comprehensive Upgradation Priority List (CUPL) during the commencement of programme based on surveys carried out by them.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.