

- (v) Ministry has issued a circular on Certification of Accounts and Financial Audit of MGNREGA accounts at Gram Panchayats Level by Chartered Accountant of selected GPs.
- (vi) The State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees are entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of schemes.

Participation of SC/STs in MGNREGA

1521. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the participation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has come down over the years by approximately 50 per cent in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any inherent anti-SC and ST bias in implementation of MGNREGA; and

(d) whether Government would consider to have an academic study to find out the weaknesses of this programme for taking corrective action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a self targeting demand driven wage employment programme and household provided employment and participation by different categories of workers depend on the demand for employment. Demand for employment under MGNREGA is also dependent upon several external factors including availability of alternate employment opportunities. This programme has high participation from marginalized groups including SCs & STs. At the National level, the share of SCs & STs in the employment generation under MGNREGA has been high at 40-50 per cent across each of the years of the Scheme's implementation. In the case of both SCs & STs, the participation rate exceeds their share in the total population.

(d) Ministry of Rural Development organizes concurrent evaluation/assessment of all its programmes/Schemes including MGNREGA on periodic basis through independent and reputed agencies and organizations. The Ministry of

Rural Development has engaged Institutions like Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), National Sample Survey organization (NSSO) and other professional institutions to conduct studies and surveys on the implementation of MGNREGA. An National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) survey on MGNREGA observed that in Andhra Pradesh 42 per cent, in Madhya Pradesh 67 per cent and in Rajasthan 50 per cent of the beneficiaries were SCs & STs.

Irregularities in implementation of MGNREGA

1522. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that in many States the poor job card holders under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are not getting a single day's job though entitled for 100 days job;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that at many places money is being withdrawn against job cards by adopting irregular practices depriving the real poor persons for whom the scheme is intended for;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's action regarding these malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households, by providing on demand up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every rural household for doing unskilled manual work. The provisions in MGNREGA are effected through Schemes formulated by States under Section 4(1) of the Act. Schedule-I of MGNREGA as amended from time to time lists the category of works that any Scheme prepared by a State Government under Section 4(1) of MGNREG Act shall focus upon. The details of total number of households registered and provided employment for the financial year 2011-12 and 2012-13 (till 01.03.2013) as reported by states/UTs are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).