

Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for connecting rural roads with urban roads and also to ensure high quality of work in relation to these roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to or is likely to approve/release the State's share of the funds meant for maintenance immediately; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Rural Road is a State subject and road works under PMGSY programme are executed, owned and maintained by the State Government. It is responsibility of the State Government to provide funds for maintenance and to ensure proper maintenance of the road constructed under the programme as per provisions under the programme guidelines to continue to provide all weather roads to such habitations that are connected under it. The programme guidelines stipulate that a separate component comprising 5-year routine maintenance to be funded by the State Government out of its resources will also be provided in the Detail Project Reports (DPRs). The responsibility to arrange funds for maintenance of road assets created under the programme rests with the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The maintenance funds required to service maintenance contracts in force in respect of road assets created under the programme are made available by the State Governments to their State Rural Road Development Agency (SRRDA) from their own resources.

Meetings of State and districts level VMCs

2295. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a single meeting of State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (VMCs) has been held during the last two years in most of the States and these are almost defunct;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the new steps taken by Government for regular monitoring of implementation of various rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Reports from States/districts indicate that meeting of State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (VMCs) have been held in all States, except Goa and Punjab, during the last two years. The reports also indicate that no meeting was held in 61 districts during the said period. These districts are in Andhra Pradesh (1), Arunachal Pradesh (1), Bihar (14), Jammu & Kashmir (17), Jharkhand (2), Madhya Pradesh (2), Maharashtra (3), Manipur (1), Nagaland (9), Uttar Pradesh (7), Uttarakhand (1) and West Bengal (3). The reasons for these Committees not meeting as frequently as required vary from State to State and include delay on the part of Chairman in indicating the date for the Meeting, postponement due to inability of the Chairman to attend the Meeting, elections, preoccupation of Member Secretary, etc.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has strengthened third party monitoring through National Level Monitors (NLMs) and web-enabled Management Information Systems (MIS) put in place. Meetings of Performance Review Committee, consisting of Central and State Government officers, are also held in each quarter.

Impact of MGNREGA on rural labour market

2296. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has disrupted the balance of labour market in rural India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers are finding it difficult to get farm workers during sowing and harvesting seasons and suffering huge loss due to the delay;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is contemplating to find out any mechanism to solve this problem; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (f) There have been no definitive findings indicating