

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

that the shortage of farm labourers is primarily due to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The demand and supply of labour for various sectors of the economy depend upon several factors like wage rates, economic prospects, absorption capacity, regional and climatic conditions, demographic profile of the work force, etc. Migration of workers from rural areas is influenced by factors like education, skills and aspirations of the labour force, alternate employment opportunities etc.

The primary objective of MGNREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. The Act extends to all rural areas in the country. Since, MGNREGA is a demand driven, rights based wage employment programme backed by legislation, State Governments are obliged to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household for doing unskilled manual work, if demanded, at any time of the year, as mandated in the Act. Average persondays of employment generated under MGNREGA during 2008 - 2012 has ranged between 54 days to 43 days per annum.

MGNREGA has led to major increase in wages of rural workers as well as their improved bargaining power in other sectors. NSSO data reveals unambiguously that the majority of MGNREGA workers are impoverished small and marginal farmers especially in tribal areas. MGNREG Act allows works such as irrigation, horticulture, land development, soil and water conservation on private land belonging to the SCs and the STs or below poverty line families or to the beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) or that of the small or marginal farmers or to the beneficiaries under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recommendation of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. 12% of the total MGNREGA works in financial year 2011-12 alone were on the lands of such individual beneficiaries, a vast majority of these are small and marginal farmers, the productivity of whose lands has been so eroded over the years, that they have been compelled to labour under MGNREGA. Permitting aforesaid works on the lands of small and marginal farmers implies coverage of 40% of all cultivated area (80% of all land holdings). MGNREGA thus plays a significant role in raising the agricultural productivity of these farmers and facilitating their return to farming.

Studies conducted by Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bangalore, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore have all concluded that MGNREGA works have had a positive impact on agricultural productivity and have also reduced water, soil, agricultural and climate-change vulnerability. Research suggests that water related assets created under MGNREGA have increased the number of days in a year that water is available and also the quantity of water available for irrigation. The increased availability of water has also led to changes in crop patterns and increased area under cultivation according to some studies. Districts and villages which have performed better in MGNREGA implementation and used funds efficiently on waste lands and watershed development, seem to demonstrate a visible growth in agricultural productivity.

An analysis of the quantum of MGNREGA works provided across the year indicates a distinct seasonal fluctuation, with a disproportionately higher share of works being done during the off-season in agriculture. Data indicates that it is in the lean agricultural season (January to June) that substantial percentage of persondays of work under MGNREGA is generated in most areas.

The Ministry has permitted new works under MGNREGA relating to watershed development (contour trenches, contour bunds, farm bunding, earthen dams, dug out farm ponds, stop dams, spring-shed development, etc.), agriculture related works (NADEP composting, vermi-composting and liquid bio-manures), irrigation command related works (rehabilitation of minors, sub-minors and field channels), etc. to expand and deepen the positive synergy between MGNREGA and agriculture especially that practiced by small and marginal farmers.

#### **Construction and maintenance of roads under PMGSY**

2297. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural roads constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the details of maintenance work done for these roads, State-wise during that period; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on construction and maintenance of roads during that period?