

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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) was launched on 25th December, 2000 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide all-weather road in rural areas of the country. The Programme envisages connecting all eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons (as per 2001 census) and above in plain areas, 250 persons and above (as per 2001 census) in Hill States, the Tribal (Schedule V) areas, the Desert areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme) and in the 82 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts in 9 States under Integrated Action Plan (IAP), as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission. Under the programme, road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations is given as per the Core Network, carved out of District Rural Roads Plan (DRRP) prepared by the states.

The Core Network under the programme has been established in the State of Karnataka, comprising of eligible unconnected habitations of 269 for the required road length of 500 km to connect these eligible habitations. Besides, road length of 10,153 km was eligible for Upgradation under the programme.

All eligible unconnected habitations and road length under Upgradation has been sanctioned under the programme in the State of Karnataka. As reported by the State, connectivity has been provided to the eligible habitations under PMGSY.

Welfare scheme for MGNREGA workers

2309. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any representations from MGNREGA workers for launching a national welfare scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to include the MGNREGA workers in ESI scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Government has been receiving representations/suggestions from the MGNREGA workers, public representatives and State Governments etc. on various implementation issues regarding Mahatma Gandhi

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) including the welfare of workers. As implementation of MGNREGA is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them, such representations/suggestions are sent to the concerned State Governments to take necessary action as per the provisions enunciated in the MGNREG Act. At the central level, such representations/suggestions if feasible are considered and suitable amendments in Schedule I and II for effective implementation of the Act are carried out from time to time.

(c) According to the Operational Guidelines issued by the Government, the State Governments may consider dovetailing wage payments under MGNREGS with other social security arrangements provided the workers are willing. Such a social security cover shall be purely voluntary. At present MGNREGA workers are covered under the Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) implemented by the Ministry of labour. RSBY coverage has been extended to all MGNREGA workers/beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days in the preceding financial year.

World bank report titled "Social Protection for a changing India"

2310.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report titled "Social Protection for a Changing India" has been brought out by the World Bank in May, 2011;

(b) if so, what are its observations/recommendations regarding MGNREGA, Public Distribution System, National Rural Health Mission, etc.; and

(c) the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) A report on "Social Protection for a Changing India" has been brought out by the World Bank in May, 2011. The report has examined the social protection policy and delivery systems in the country by documenting the success and challenges of various social security programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Public Distribution System (PDS) and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) among others. The report indicates that the most heralded reform of Social Protection programs in recent years has been the introduction of the Mahatma