

(a) whether a scam of Rs.2,900 crore has taken place under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Bihar and several other irregularities have also been found in this scheme there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has ordered an inquiry into the said scam/irregularities;

(d) whether Government has received the inquiry report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (e) The Ministry receives a number of complaints from States including Bihar on implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The complaints mainly relate to cases of job cards not provided, misappropriation of funds, engagement of contractors, forgery of muster roll, manipulation in job cards, underpayment of wages, non-payment of wages, use of machinery, delay in payments, corruption and other irregularities. As implementation of the Act is vested with the States/UTs, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the State Governments concerned for taking appropriate action, including investigation, as per law. Action against the guilty officials, if any, is taken by the State Government as per law. On the basis of a report by the Centre for Environment and Food Security (CEFS) on the implementation of MGNREGA in Bihar, the State Government has investigated the irregularities pointed out and where discrepancies in terms of fake/underpayment of wages were found, legal, administrative and disciplinary action has been taken. It has been reported by the State Government of Bihar that FIRs have been lodged against 50 persons, the services of 24 persons have been terminated, and show-cause notices have been issued to 76 persons.

Diversion of MGNREGA funds

3684. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated under Government's flagship programme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), are diverted by the State Governments to various other projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has urged the State Governments not to divert the funds under State projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) As per the Section 22 of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (MGNREGA) 2005, central share of funds under MGNREGA is released to meet state Governments' requirement towards payment of wages for unskilled manual work, administrative expenses and cost towards materials used in the approved activities. The State Governments, under MGNREGA are required to utilise central share of programme funds only for approved items of works subject to the conditions laid down in the MGNREGA Operational Guidelines. The implementing State Governments are not allowed to divert MGNREGA funds to Projects/Schemes other than approved MGNREGA activities.

Revision of guidelines of IAY

3685. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to revise the guidelines of rural housing scheme, the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to provide houses to the rural poor by helping in construction and upgradation of dwelling units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government is in the process of revising Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) guidelines. The important changes/proposed changes are:

- Enhancement of Unit Assistance under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) to Rs.70,000/- in plain areas and Rs.75,000/- in hilly/ difficult areas/IAP districts.