

(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.

- Enhancement of unit assistance for purchase of homestead site under IAY to Rs.20,000/-.
- Provision of 4% administrative expenses under IAY.
- Transfer of funds under IAY to an identified account of State Government.

(c) and (d) Indira Awaas Yojana, financial assistance is provided to rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) households for construction/upgradation of dwelling units. For construction of dwelling units, the financial assistance is Rs.70,000/- in plain areas and Rs.75,000/- in hilly/ difficult areas/ IAP districts. For upgradation of an unserviceable kutch house, the assistance of Rs. 15,000/- is provided in both the areas.

Hike in wages under MGNREGA

3686. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to hike the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been demands to increase the wages at par with the cost of living of poor rural masses; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to increase the wages under MGNREGA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The wage rates under MGNREGA have been revised vide notification dated 26.02.2013 effective from 1st April, 2013. The State-wise revised wage rates is given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) To ensure that MGNREGA workers wages are protected against inflation, the Central Government has decided to index the wages with the Consumer Price Index for Agriculture labourers (CPIAL). Accordingly, on January 14, 2011, the Ministry of Rural Development issued a notification revising MGNREGA wage rates by linking it to the CPIAL. All subsequent revisions, including the latest revision effective from 01.04.2013 have been made through indexation with CPIAL.