

a Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for a Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force considered various issues, demands and suggestions relating to pension schemes under NSAP, received from various quarters including those on current targeting criteria, age criteria, inclusion criteria, quantum of assistance and indexing it to inflation. The Task Force has submitted its report to this Ministry.

Increase in old age and widow pension

742. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government is seriously thinking to increase the old age pension, widow pension from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1000 per month and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): On the direction of the Union Cabinet, a Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for a Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force considered various issues, demands and suggestions relating to pension schemes under NSAP, received from various quarters including those on current targeting criteria, age criteria, inclusion criteria, quantum of assistance and indexing it to inflation. The Task Force has submitted its report to this Ministry.

Construction of roads under PMGSY

743. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the length of roads laid under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during 2009 to 2013; State-wise; and

(b) whether the target for construction of roads under PMGSY has been achieved and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) The State-wise length of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the years 2009-10 to 2012-13 is given in the Statement (*See below*).