

major proposals under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to the Central Government involving construction of over 11,000 kms of rural roads in the State during the last three years;

(b) whether these proposals were considered in the Ministry; and

(c) if so, by when these proposals would be approved and the State Government be advised accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka had submitted five proposals of about 10,437 Kms. for consideration under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the years 2010-11 to 2012-13. These proposals include Technology Promotion Projects (260 Kms.), Upgradation Projects (4,997 Kms.) and New Connectivity projects (5,180 Kms.). The Ministry of Rural Development had considered the above proposals and sanctioned 65 roads covering 260 Kms length of road under Technology Promotion projects. The balance proposals were returned to the State due to the following reasons:-

- (i) In respect of 791 roads, the State did not have any balance target left under upgradation.
- (ii) In respect of the balance proposal, *i.e.* providing connectivity for 1497 unconnected habitations (5,180 kms length), these habitations were shown as already connected in the Core Network, and were therefore not eligible.

Implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme

*230. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments are ensuring that the mid day meal is cooked and delivered in a safe and hygienic manner to beneficiaries/children in schools;

(b) whether the State Governments have also initiated any scheme to fortify these requirements;

(c) the number of complaints received with regard to the poor quality of meal served to students and the action taken by the Central Government; and

(d) the details of monitoring mechanism adopted under the Mid Day Meal Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Mid-Day Meal Guidelines provide for the lifting of good quality food grains of at least Fair Average Quality from Food Corporation of India (FCI) go-downs, the storage of food items in dry and safe places, and cooking of the meals in a hygienic environment through properly trained cook-cum-helpers. The cooked food has to be tasted by 2-3 adults including one teacher before serving it to the children. The MHRD has sanctioned a total of 9.79 lakh kitchen-cum-stores; out of this 6.26 (64%) lakh kitchen-cum-stores have been constructed in the states so far. In addition, community involvement is promoted in the implementation and supervision of the Mid Day Meal Scheme. The states are also encouraged to promote social audit of the scheme.

(b) Yes, sir. In Jharkhand, School childrens' mothers association called Saraswati Vahini is actively involved in cooking and effective delivery of the food to the children. Andhra Pradesh has introduced the Green Channel Scheme for prompt release of funds for MDMS to the schools. Many states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Punjab and NER States have initiated kitchen gardens in the school premises for serving the vegetables in the MDM. In addition, most of the States/UTs have already conducted capacity building programmes for cooks/inspectors/organizers.

(c) During the last one year, 12 complaints of poor quality of MDM have been received at the national level in this Ministry. These complaints were referred to the concerned State Governments, which have taken necessary action in all cases. The allegations were found baseless in 2 cases. In other cases action was taken by

the State Governments, which included a warning to the concerned NGO and officers responsible, the initiation of departmental proceedings against the Principal/ Headmaster, the suspension of erring officials, termination of services of Block Resource Person, the registration of criminal cases against the Head teacher and other responsible persons for negligence.

(d) There is a detailed mechanism for supervision of the scheme through Periodical reports, and monitoring at the local level through the SMCs as well as the State Government officials. In addition the Central Government ensures independent monitoring through 41 monitoring institutes such as IIT Chennai; Viswa Bharti; and XLRI. The Joint Review Missions (JRM) visit the States at regular intervals. In the current year 7 JRMs have been conducted; and 13 more are planned. In addition, surprise visits are made from time to time; three such visits have been carried out in the current year in Maharashtra; J and K and Assam.

The implementation of the scheme is monitored during the PAB meetings; and by the District, State and National Level Steering-cum-monitoring Committees. The District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of Member of Parliament from the district has also been activated.

The Central Government has asked National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) recognized labs to collect the samples from the field for testing on parameters such as microbiological-presence or absence of e-coli, chemical parameters such as moisture content, fats, proteins and calorific value of the meal, for enhancing the effectiveness of the Scheme. The States/UTs have also been requested to consider engaging Food Safety Standards Authority of India/CSIR Institutes/NABL recognized labs for carrying out sample checking of MDM, to ensure quality meal to the children.

Illegal mining

*231. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government is going to constitute a Mining Authority;