

Study under MGNREGA Projects to increase ground water level

1804. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a study under MGNREGA projects to increase the ground water level in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the above success has reduced migration from rural areas with increase in employment opportunities in the rural sector and agriculture production;
- (d) whether this success proposed to be tried in the urban water-thirsty sectors; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) A recent Synthesis Report on a study conducted, by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in collaboration with Ministry of Rural Development, on '*Environmental Benefits and vulnerability reduction through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)*' has concluded that Implementation of MGNREGS works such as water conservation and harvesting works, drought proofing, irrigation provisioning and improvement works and renovation of traditional water bodies have contributed to improved water levels, increased water availability for irrigation, increased area irrigated by ground and surface water sources and finally improved drinking water availability for humans and livestock. The report indicates that MGNREGA works such as Check dams, percolation tanks and desilting of tanks have had positive impacts on ground water depth in the villages where it was measured in 2012. The Ground Water levels have either increased or remained at the pre-MGNREGA level despite continued and perhaps increased extraction. These works have also contributed to an increase in area irrigated by bore wells and open wells, potentially leading to increased and sustained crop yields in many villages,

with percentage of beneficiary households reporting an increase in the range of 7% to 10% as well as an increase in the irrigated area.

(c) MGNREGA; a wage employment programme, also seeks to create durable assets to augment land and water resources, improve rural connectivity and strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. The choice of works suggested in the Act addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion so that the process of employment generation is maintained on a sustainable basis and durable assets are created on a sustainable basis. MGNREGA also provides for unemployment allowance if employment is not provided within 15 days of receipt of job seeker's application, provision of employment within a radius of 5 Km of the village where the applicant resides at the time of applying for job; and payment of additional 10% wage rate, in case employment is provided outside such radius. Various studies have concluded that implementation of MGNREGA has significantly curbed distress migration of people from rural areas.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. As the name itself implies, MGNREGA is a demand driven wage employment programme backed by legislation and is restricted to the rural areas only.

Problems in updation of transaction in MGNREGS-MIS

1805. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints regarding updation of transaction in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)-Management Information System (MIS) due to heavy traffic in the website;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received requests from various States for exclusive servers for these States;