

Meeting of State Monitoring and Vigilance Committee

1819. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether State Vigilance and Monitoring Committees are required to hold meetings at fixed periodicity;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Tamil Nadu Government have held only one meeting and that too after several years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reports available with the Ministry of Rural Development indicate that after the formation of 15th Lok Sabha, four meetings of the State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (VMC) of Tamil Nadu were held on 08.01.2010, 16.04.2010, 30.08.2010 and 19.06.2013.

Functioning of MGNREGS

1820. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (MGNREGS) has recently been witnessing decline in demand and popularity;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether the scheme has constantly received criticism from various

quarters due to the unskilled nature of work performed and non-durability of assets created;

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether Government proposes to revamp and restructure the scheme including the measures proposed to link it with skill development programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a demand driven wage employment programme. Being a self-selecting wage-employment programme, the increase or the decline in the demand for labour under MGNREGA may arise due to a myriad of factors external to the programme management *viz.* available of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA, rain fall pattern, prevailing unskilled wage rate in rural, semi-urban/urban areas, better connectivity to semi-urban/peri-urban/Urban areas etc. As per the information available with the Ministry, the year 2012-13 witnessed a better performance under the Act than the year 2011-12. The volume of wage-employment grew from 216.34 crore person-days in 2011-12 to 228.16 crore person-days in 2012-13. The average person-days per household and women participation rate were 43, 46 person-days and 48 per cent and 52 per cent during 2011-12 and 2012-13, respectively.

(c) and (d) MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of the rural people by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act also seeks to create durable assets 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. The MGNREGA Operational Guidelines-2013 has dedicated Chapter No. 14 entitled 'Quality Management of MGNREGA works' for

emphasizing the need to have a three pronged quality aspects viz. quality control at site, quality supervision and quality monitoring. Technical manuals on Watershed, Natural Resource Management and Forestry were prepared and circulated. For gap filling and value addition, Convergence Guidelines of MGNREGA with the ongoing schemes of different Ministries have been circulated. The National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) has been assigned to do survey of works. The feedbacks of such surveys are shared with the respective State Governments. The social Audit unit should have Quality Monitors to facilitate evaluation of asset quality during Social Audit in the implementing States.

(e) and (f) Based on suggestions received from State Governments and other stakeholders, the list of permissible activities is revised from time to time. As primary objective of MGNREGA is to enhance livelihood security of the unskilled rural households, the focus of the scheme has been to permit works that create employment opportunities for unskilled labourers. Skill development of the rural youth is the objective of another programme, 'Ajeevika' (National Rural Livelihood Mission) of this Ministry, whose mission is to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots institutions of the poor.

Release of central share of grant under DRDA Administration

1821. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central share of 75 per cent of grant to the State cell under District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) has not yet been released;

(b) whether the second instalment under MGNREGA amounting to Rs. 2100 crores against the claim submitted in September, 2012 has not been released, so far; and

(c) by when these amounts would be released to the State agencies?