

Telecommunication & Others) has held that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has powers to conduct a revenue audit of the accounts drawn by the Private Telecom Operators who have entered into licence agreements to provide cellular/unified access service as per licence agreements. The Telecom Service Providers have filed Special Leave Petitions, against the above judgment, before the Supreme Court and the matter is sub-judice. However, in the facts of this case there is no issue concerning Company Law.

#### **Functioning of the Central Waqf Council**

\*266. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Waqf Council has started functioning under the amended Waqf Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to make full use of the provisions of amended Waqf Act?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) and (b) The amendments in the Wakf Act, 1995, have been passed by the Parliament and the Wakf (Amendment) Act, 2013 has been assented to by the President on 20.09.2013. After notification, the Wakf (Amendment) Act, 2013 has been enforced from 01.11.2013 throughout the country except in Jammu & Kashmir. The Central Waqf Council (CWC) has started functioning in accordance with the amended provisions laid down in the Waqf Act, 1995, and has started advising the Central Government, State Governments and the State Waqf Boards on matters concerning the working of the Boards and due administration of auqaf. The CWC has also started issuing advices to the State Waqf Boards for implementation of various provisions of the amended Act.

(c) The Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers of State/UT Waqf Boards as well as the concerned officers of State/UT Governments were sensitized regarding the salient features of the Wakf (Amendment) Act, 2013 and the regulatory powers of CWC in the light of the amended Act during the Conference held on 29.01.2014 with the Ministers In-charge of Minority Affairs of the State Governments. The Central Government has issued letters at the level of Minister of Minority Affairs to the Chief Ministers of the States and at the level of Secretary, Ministry of

Minority Affairs to the Chief Secretaries of the States about the salient features of the amended Act and action to be taken by the State/UT Governments in implementation of various provisions of the amended Act.

#### **Performance of MGNREGA**

\*267. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has been declining since its peak in 2009-10;

(b) whether Government has not been active in promoting MGNREGA;

(c) whether Government's less interest in MGNREGA has become an impediment to the State Governments in implementing it; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to revive MGNREGA?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) There are variations in demand for work year to year, but there is no steady decline. The wage employment provided has increased from 218.76 crore persondays in 2011-12 to 229.86 crore persondays in 2012-13. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a demand driven programme; and the demand for work itself is influenced by various factors such as rain fall pattern, availability of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA and prevailing unskilled wage rates. Government is actively engaged with State Governments in establishing systems that ensure provision of work as per demand, transparency and accountability.

#### **Dams in North Eastern region**

\*268. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether either dams or mega dams, which are being constructed or proposed to be constructed in the North Eastern Region have been given any clearances by the Ministry in parallel with the Ministries which control various regulatory responsibilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and