

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