

Road safety measures under PMGSY

105. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether road safety issues are taken care of while constructing rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard and to ensure road safety audits and check the specific requirements of rural roads during their construction?

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

(b) to (d) Since rural roads are generally low traffic volume roads, safety issues relate mainly to design and construction features and road safety consciousness of local residents. To address design and construction features, PMGSY roads are designed as per IRCSP:20 and all Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are verified by State Technical Agency (STA), to ensure that all road safety and mitigation measures are incorporated in the DPRs.

The programme guidelines of PMGSY stipulate that the State Government, as the implementing agency, shall ensure road safety audit of PMGSY works along with quality monitoring. It shall also ensure adequate involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions in road safety awareness programmes. Awareness rising activities include publication of pamphlets, audio-visuals, interactive programmes with local community, etc.

Revision of wages under MGNREGA

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

- (a) whether it is proposed to revise upward the wages of workers employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country;
- (b) whether the above issue was considered by a certain panel appointed by Government;
- (c) if so, the salient recommendations in the matter made by this panel;
- (d) whether it is a one-time upward revision or there would be such revisions at regular intervals; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Wage rates for workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 are notified and revised annually by the Central Government in accordance with the provisions of Section 6(1) of the Act. As per the decision taken in 2009, the base wage rate of workers under MGNREGA is to be reset once in five years. In 2011, it was decided to index wage rates every year with the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) so that wages of MGNREGA workers are protected against inflation.

(b) Since the base rate has to be reset in 2014, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Director and Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research to suggest the methodology for resetting the base rate and for suggesting a proper index for revising MGNREGA wage rates yearly.

(c) to (e) The Committee has recommended to adopt - the existing MGNREGA wage rate as in 2014 or the Minimum Wage prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act whichever is higher - as the base rate for 2014. The Committee has also recommended to adopt Consumer Price Index (Rural) for indexation of the wages instead of the Consumer Price Index (Agricultural Labour). The recommendations of the Committee need detailed examination at the Government level.

National rural livelihood mission

107. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking a cue from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act's (MGNREGA) success, it is being considered to launch an equally ambitious programme of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for self employment through skill development by restructuring the existing Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, whether Government would guarantee self-employment to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families by organizing Self Help Groups (SHGs) under this scheme;

(c) if so, the salient features of the said programme; and

(d) by when this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (d) The Government has already restructured Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana(SGSY). as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), subsequently renamed as Aajeevika. NRLM was launched on 3rd June, 2011 and after a transition period of two years, SGSY has ceased to exist with effect from 1.4.2013.