

the three year undergraduate programme structure so that they do not lose an academic year for obtaining undergraduate degrees, and for this purpose, ensure that students acquire necessary academic and other competences during the next two academic years;

- (iii) Take all other steps as may be necessary to adhere to the 3-year undergraduate programme as envisaged under the 10+2+3 structure under the NPE 1986, while ensuring that students are facilitated through the process of transacting the curriculum under the 10+2+3 structure.

These directives were reiterated by the UGC vide its order dated 22nd June, 2014 in which University of Delhi was further directed to ensure that admission for academic session 2014-15 at the undergraduate level in the general degree programmes in various colleges under University of Delhi shall only be to the three year general undergraduate programmes which were offered prior to the introduction of FYUP and to inform all colleges to comply with the directives of the UGC. The UGC also wrote a letter dated 22nd June, 2014 to all the colleges under the University of Delhi for complying with the directives issued by the UGC and ensuring that colleges admit students at undergraduate level for academic year 2014-15 only to the 3 year undergraduate programme which was offered prior to introduction of FYUP.

(c) University of Delhi has reported that the Academic Council of University of Delhi, vide its resolution dated 28-06-2014, decided to replace, with effect from the academic year 2014-15, the syllabi/scheme of examination under the FYUP with scheme/syllabi which was in existence in 2012-13.

Linking of MGNREGA with Agriculture

*8. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal to link the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with agriculture, so that the works taken up under the scheme help enhance productivity in agriculture by creating infrastructure and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards criticism for the problems such as poor quality of assets it created, delays in payment of wages and gaps in the implementation of MGNREGA; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps/measures proposed for proper implementation of MGNREGA in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Most of the works permitted under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) pertain to improving the productivity in agriculture and allied activities. These include water conservation, watershed management, renovation of traditional water bodies, land development, micro and minor irrigation, horticulture, sericulture, plantations, farm fishery, development of fallow/waste lands, post-harvest storage facilities and promotion of livestock and fisheries.

However, to bring a greater focus on agriculture, the Ministry is considering to amend the Schedule I of the MGNREGA 2005 to ensure that at least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost are for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

(b) A number of good quality assets have been created in many States under the programme. However, it has been recognized that more focus needs to be given on creation of quality assets alongside provision of wage employment. The problems like delays in payment of wages and misuse of money have been noticed, primarily arising out of poor implementation.

(c) In order to correct these, a concrete action plan has been formulated consisting of:

- Improving the quality of assets by better planning and technical supervision, greater facility for taking up larger and durable assets, including in convergence with other line departments.
- To reduce delays in payment of wages under MGNREGA a system of payment of compensation for such delays was brought in Para 29 of Schedule II of the Act. The States have been advised to ensure compliance with this provision,
- States have been asked to universalise the operationalisation of electronic Fund Management System to ensure smooth flow of funds from the State to the wage seekers and to eliminate delays in payment of wages,
- To control irregularities in implementation, the States and UTs have been asked to implement Social Audits more vigorously and in a manner that allows greater transparency and public scrutiny,
- States have been requested to put in place Ombudsmen in every district to hear and resolve grievances. The Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been constituted at the District and State levels to monitor the schemes.