

Construction of godowns under MGNREGA

3282.DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to construct godowns in rural areas of West Bengal and rest of the country with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) funds to tide over severe shortage of godowns in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) The list of works permitted under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA) has been expanded in January 2014 and construction of food-grains godowns is included in the list of permissible works.

MGNREGA is a demand-driven wage employment programme and no target on permissible works is fixed at the Central level. As per the provisions made in the Act, the permissible works including construction of food-grains godowns are to be identified, planned and prioritised by the Panchayat authorities concerned.

Performance of Integrated Watershed Management Programme

3283.DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been able to achieve any substantial improvement in upgrading wastelands across the country since the implementation of the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), in 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) to (c) As per the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects-2008 (Revised Edition-2011), the period for completing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) projects is between 4-7 years. Therefore, IWMP projects have still not been completed. However, as per the Wastelands Atlas of India-2011, the total area of wasteland that has been reduced and put to productive use between 2005-06 to 2008-09 is 5240.78 Square km.