Conflicting provisions for composition of oversight committees under SAGY

*65. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) Guidelines dated 11th October, 2014 and the 'Ready Reckoner and Frequently Asked Questions Booklet' dated 17th December, 2014 issued by the Ministry contain conflicting provisions regarding the composition and constitution of the national level committees for overseeing the implementation of the scheme;

(b) whether the change in constitution of the national level oversight committees included in the ready reckoner would prevail over the scheme guidelines; and

(c) the legal basis, procedure and timeframe for constitution of the oversight committees?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Guidelines provide that for overseeing the implementation, there will be two national level committees. One will be headed by the Minister for Rural Development with the participation of the Ministers in charge of Planning, Programme Implementation and other key ministries as may be decided. The second committee will be headed by the Secretary of Rural Development with representatives from the key Ministries listed in the Guidelines. The 'Ready Reckoner and Frequently Asked Questions Booklet', which was released later, differ from the Guidelines with regard to the composition of the Committee headed by Minister (Rural Development) to the effect that the booklet also provides for representation of 6 to 8 Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on rotation basis.

Guidelines thereof, has authorized the Ministry of Rural Development to modify the Guidelines of the Scheme, if required, in the light of the experience gained in due course. Accordingly, a notification to amend the SAGY guidelines to provide for the nomination of Hon'ble Members of Parliament to the Committee headed by Minister (Rural Development) is being issued by the Ministry.

(b) The Scheme Guidelines are being amended to provide for nomination of the Members of Parliament to the committee headed by Minister (Rural Development). Till then, existing Guidelines will continue to be in operation.

(c) The basis of changes is the power given by the Cabinet to the Ministry of Rural Development to amend the guidelines in the light of experience gained. In the meantime, nominations have been sought from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. On receipt, the notification will be issued after seeking the approval of Minister (Rural Development).

SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Sir, to the question that I had put to the hon. Minister, the answer given is totally contradictory. I had stated that by holding MPs accountable to the Ministry of Rural Development through this Oversight Committee, the Government is breaching the doctrine of separation of powers between the Legislature and the Executive. In this context, even earlier, in November and December, I had sought clarification on the *Adarsh Gram Yojana*, but I did not receive even an acknowledgement for the queries that I had raised. Now, I would like to put this question to the hon. Minister: According to the Scheme guidelines, MPs are made a part of the implementing agency for the Scheme. Does the provision to include MPs in monitoring the Oversight Committee not create a conflict of interest, as those who are implementing are the ones who are monitoring the schemes? I would like to seek a clarification on this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, when the scheme was launched in October, 2014, some guidelines were issued by the Rural Development Ministry and later on, a booklet was also issued, a ready-reckoner book for the Hon. MPs, but it was thought that MPs should also have the participation in the Committee which is at the level of the Rural Development Ministry. So, it was decided that there should be MPs from both the Houses of Parliament and in that, we sought the election or the nomination of the MPs from both Houses and that was the reason that there is some contradiction between the ready-reckoner book and the earlier guidelines that were issued. Otherwise, whenever when we get all the MPs nominated on the body, they would be part of the Committee which is at the national level.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the second question.

SHRI AVINASH PANDE: As Hon. Minister has already mentioned that it is contradictory, my question is, Sir: How is this Committee different from the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State and District level to monitor the rural development programme set-up under the guidelines of Ministry of Rural Development? How do you feel that these Committees are different? I mean both the Committees.

1.00 P.M.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: The arrangement is like this that there would be two Committees at the national level. One Committee would be chaired by the Rural Development Ministry, and one Minister, that is, the Planning Minister, would be one of the Members from the Ministers and there is a second Committee which is of the level of the Secretary and the Rural Development Secretary would be the Chairman. But, as far as the implementation of the scheme is concerned, there would be State-level Committee and at the District level, there would be a Committee, but the District Collector or the District Magistrate would be the Nodal Officer for the Committee to see and to ensure the implementation of the Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) Scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Sir, my question is not being answered.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सर, "सांसद आदर्श ग्राम योजना" अपने आप में एक बहुत अच्छी योजना इस सरकार की आई है। हम सब लोगों ने, मैंने भी एक गाँव adopt किया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस adoption के बाद उनके पास कैसे अनुभव आए हैं? इस adoption के बाद उन गाँवों में किस तरह का implementation है, उसमें एमपीज़ का रोल क्या है और वे उसे कैसे करेंगे, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, we have received very good response from the Members of the Parliament from both the Houses and till now, 661 Hon. Members of Parliament, have shown their interest and selected their Gram Panchayat. That constitutes 84 per cent of the total MPs of both the Houses. Sir, there are 485 Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha, that is 89 per cent of the total strength, and 176 Members of Parliament from Rajya Sabha, that is, 72 per cent, who have identified their Gram Panchayats.

एक माननीय सदस्य: आप यह बताइए कि काम कैसे कराएँगे? **...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Till now, 585 Charge Officers are appointed. That is 88 per cent of the TOTAL Gram Panchayats selected and as Hon. Member has said, काम कैसे कराओगे? काम कराने के लिए एक प्रक्रिया है। उसको जब तक पूरा नहीं किया जाएगा —यह आदर्श ग्राम योजना दो साल के अंदर पूरी होगी। इसके तहत जो हमने पहली बात की है वह ऑनरेबिल एम.पीज. से उनकी चॉयस मांगी है कि आपको कौन सी ग्राम पंचायत लेनी है आदर्श ग्राम के लिए।

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I seek your protection. The question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not satisfied with the answer given, please raise it. Question Hour is over. Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make. Because of inclement weather, the venue of this evening's dinner has been shifted from 6, Maulana Azad Road to Vigyan Bhavan. The time remains the same, that is, 7.45 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Repair works on NH-8 at Majhigam, Chikhli

*66. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representation(s) for repairing the dilapidated stone pitched toe wall for protection of slope of the high embankment in front of Pattidar Samaj Community Hall at 313 km. of Surat-Dahisar section of NH-8 at Majhigam, Chikhli;

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials have inspected the place during the last six months and if so, the findings thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when NHAI is going to direct concessionaire to repair the same carefully and also put a net to protect stone pitching?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of The House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The protection work including dry rubble stone pitching work at above location has been completed in February, 2013. However, at km. 313.650 (Left Hand Side), dry rubble stone pitching had dislodged during the monsoon of 2014. The concessionaire has rectified the same under the supervision of Independent Engineer (IE) appointed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(c) and (d) The said site was inspected by NHAI representative, IE & Concessionaire and the Concessionaire was instructed to carry out the repair works. The Concessionaire has completed the rectification work of dry rubble stone pitching