

Irregularities under MGNREGA

1574. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is aware that, as per recent study report, 50 per cent of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) beneficiaries pay bribes for payment of their wages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action to check bribes and corruption in MGNREGA;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A study by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) based on certain secondary survey data has made a statement to that effect. However, that study which relied on newspaper articles of 2007-08 needs to be validated by major research studies based on primary data.

(c) to (e) There are following provisions in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS) to check corruption and bribes:-

- (i) Social Audit: Under a Special Project, the Ministry is funding the deployment of Staff in Social Audit Units upto District level to strengthen the Social Audit. The project will be operational during 2014-17 and will ensure the social audit of MGNREGS works is conducted as per the Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011.
- (ii) Grievance Redressal Mechanism: The Act provides for establishment of Ombudsman at district level for expeditions redressal of grievances on the implementation of MGNREGS in the States/UTs. The Ombudsman can take *suow moto* cognizance of irregularities in the scheme.
- (iii) State Quality Monitor (SQM): Guidelines provide for deployment of retired Chief/Executive Engineers for quality inspection of works implemented under the scheme. SQM can make use of random sampling or stratified sampling in selecting the sample for quality inspection.

- (iv) National Levelitors (NLMs): If a complaint is *prima facie* substantiated by documentary evidence, third party institutional NLMs are deputed to enquire into the allegations and issues raised in the NLM report are resolved through State Government.

Landless labourers in rural areas

1575. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that 48.5 per cent of rural households in the country are landless labourers and are engaged in manual labour for livelihood;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the efforts being made by Government to improve the economic status and extent of poverty of these landless labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Sir, 5.37 crore households out of 17.91 crore households have reported as landless and deriving their major sources of income from manual casual labour. State-wise details of rural households showing the percentage of casual labourer .

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing, through State/UT Governments, the major programmes namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for wage employment, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) for self-employment through livelihoods promotion, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for rural housing, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for rural connectivity and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for social assistance to rural poor. These programmes are aimed at betterment of rural livelihoods and overall development of rural areas through creation of employment opportunities, infrastructures and providing social assistance to the rural poor.

Establishment of Maritime University in Gujarat

1576. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Gujarat for establishment of Maritime University in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and