

in case of Bihar. Based on this the central allocation for the financial year 2014-15 was 1530.19 crore with a target of 2.80 lakh houses.

For the current financial year, as per Census 2011 data, Bihar has 6775 houseless households and 12.54 lakh households living in dilapidated houses. The above value has been assigned 75% weightage. 25% weightage has been assigned to the proportion of rural BPL population which is 10.34 per cent in the case of Bihar. The above calculation results in the State allocation of 12.15 per cent of the total allocation for non-NE States under the scheme. It amounts to an allocation of ₹ 1032.03 crore including administrative charges of ₹ 39.69 crore. With the changed sharing pattern of 60:40, physical targets are kept at the level of 2,36,271 houses in case of Bihar.

Development of desert areas in Rajasthan

†2523. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of desert land identified in Rajasthan which is geographically the largest state of the country;
- (b) whether there is any scheme proposed for the development of desert land;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As per the Wasteland Atlas of India, Revised Edition 2011, the extent of desert land in Rajasthan is 26928.05 sqkm (of Categories 17, 18 & 19 which includes dunes less than 15 m, 15-40 m and more than 40 m high respectively).

(b) to (d) At present there is no specific proposal of Government of India to develop just desert lands in Rajasthan. However the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) had been implementing Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis between 1995-96 to 2006-07 in Rajasthan. A total of 7578 projects covering an area of 3.780 million hectare has been sanctioned under this programme for which ₹ 1525.72 crore of Central share was released. Out of this, a total of 6564 projects have been completed. The Desert Development Programme (DDP) alongwith the Drought Prone Area Development (DPAP) and the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) were integrated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. From the year 2015-16, the IWMP has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for development of rainfed/degraded/desert areas including wastelands in the country. The major activities taken up *inter alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons. A total of 1025 projects covering an area of 5.764 million ha were sanctioned under PMKSY (Watershed Development) for which ₹1792.256 crore of Central share is released for Rajasthan. These projects are in various stages of implementation.

Increase in minimum wages under MGNREGA in Odisha

2524. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of severe drought situation prevailing in Odisha, the Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister to increase the minimum wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to ₹ 200 per day as against ₹ 174 per day; and

(b) if so, what is the latest development in this regard?

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

(b) The Government of India has already made provision for additional employment of 50 days over and above 100 days per household under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in notified drought affected blocks of Odisha.

Inclusion of agriculture related activities under MGNREGA

†2525. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: whether Government proposes to include promotion of animal husbandry, dairy, and organic farming and activities related to registered cowsheds like space for sheltering cows, manger for fodder and water, etc. by State Government into the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): As per Para-4 (1), II Category-B (v) of Schedule-1,

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