

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to conduct social audit in all the States under MGNREGA to bring more transparency in the works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Social audit of all works executed and expenditure incurred is a statutory commitment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005. The following steps have been taken by the Ministry to ensure social audits in States/UTs:

- Training of nearly 8000 Social Audit Resource Persons under a 30-day certificate course on Social Audit in partnership with the Tata Institute of Social Science and National Institute of Rural Development.
- Linking release of further tranche of funds to States to the successful institutionalization and conduct of social audits in the States.

Acquisition of agricultural land by foreign companies

821. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign companies are taking over agricultural land on a large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to check procurement of agricultural land by foreign companies in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to check the decreasing agricultural land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) to (e) The subject of "Land and its management" is covered within the legislative jurisdiction of the States as provided in Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. So far, no State Government has reported any large scale procurement of agriculture land in the country by foreign companies.

As regards acquisition of land, there exist certain conditions for acquisition of agricultural land by companies. As per provisions laid down under Section 2(1) and

2(2)(b) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, land can be acquired for private companies only for public purposes, provided the land acquiring companies obtain prior consent of at least eighty per cent of "affected families" at the stage of conduct of "Social Impact Assessment" study.

Further, Section 10 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 contains special provisions to safeguard food security and includes prescription of limits on quantum/ extent of agricultural land that can be acquired.

Policy for maintenance of rural roads under PMGSY

†822. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to hand over the maintenance of roads built under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to the States after five years from the time of their construction;

(b) if so, the names of States that have given their consent and made rules for maintenance of roads and are acting thereon; and

(c) the details of steps taken with regard to those States that have not framed such policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) to (c) All Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) roads are covered by a 5-year maintenance contract, entered into along with construction contract, with the same contractor, in accordance with the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) prescribed under PMGSY by the Ministry of Rural Development. Maintenance funds to service the contract are budgeted by the State Governments. On expiry of 5-year post-construction maintenance, the State Governments are required to make necessary budget provision to place such roads under zonal maintenance contracts.

National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) and the Ministry of Rural Development, in partnership with International Labour Organization and World Bank

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.