

(d) whether Government has taken steps to obviate the discrepancies in payments to the beneficiaries of MGNREGA, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) The Ministry along with the States/UTs has been making concerted efforts for improving the timely payment of wages. States/UTs have been advised to generate pay orders in time. This has resulted in considerable improvement in the status of timely generation of pay order and leading to improvement in actual time taken to credit wages in the workers account. During the current financial Year 2017-18 (as on 31.01.2018), 85.53% pay orders have been generated within 15 days. The delay in payment of wages are due to implementation issues in the States which include inadequate staffing, non-timely recording and reporting of attendance, measurement, data entry, generation of wage list, Fund Transfer Order (FTO), Public Financial Management System and Banks/ Post offices related issues etc.

(b) As per the provisions in Schedule-II of the Act, wage seekers are entitled to receive payment of compensation for the delay, at the rate of 0.05% of the unpaid wages per day for the duration of delay beyond the sixteenth day of closure of muster roll. The MIS in NREGASoft automatically calculates the compensation amount. The Programme Officer (PO) has been authorised to verify the claims. Upon approval, the payment of compensation for delay in payment of wages are to be made upfront by the State Government. As reported by the State Governments, a sum of ₹75.89 crore has been paid as compensation towards delay in payment of wages, so far.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Efforts have been made by the Ministry to reduce the delay in payment of wages to the MGNREGA workers viz., timely release of funds, payment through National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) for direct payment of wages into workers account, issued guidelines for monitoring of timely payment and payment of delay compensation, enabling appropriate provisions in NREGASoft to monitor timely payment of wages and payment of delay compensation. The Ministry is in constant engagement with the State Governments/UTs through review meetings, video conferences, Mid Term Review, SMS based monitoring etc.

#### **Release of MGNREGA funds for Andhra Pradesh**

291. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has to release pending scheme funds under material and wage components of MGNREGA to Andhra Pradesh for the last two years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the funds were not released due to complaints from various quarters, if so, details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reason for the funds not being released to State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ministry releases funds to the States based on the basis of agreed to Labour Budget (LB), opening balance, pending liabilities of the previous year for the financial year, if any, and overall performance. The fund release for implementation of MGNREGA to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is making funds available keeping in view the demand. Central fund released to Andhra Pradesh for the last FY 2016-17 and current FY 2017-18 (as on 31.01.2018) is ₹ 3940.21 & ₹ 4811.06 crore respectively.

(c) and (d) Complaints of irregularities in implementation of MGNREGA in States/UTs are received in the Ministry. Since the responsibility of implementation of MGNREGA is vested with the State Governments/UTs, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UTs for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law. Detailed instructions by way of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for complaint redressal have also been issued to all States/UTs.

#### **Thrust for 'original ideas' in inspire programme**

292. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Innovation of Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) programme has been modified with a thrust to 'original ideas' having potential for social needs through science and technology;
- (b) if so, how many 'original ideas' have been targetted for a financial year and the amount that has been fixed for such an award; and
- (c) what is the criteria that has been adopted by Government to shortlist the schools from where The 'original ideas' would be gathered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Sir. The INSPIRE Award Scheme of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) program being implemented by the