guidelines for implementation of the programme have been circulated to all States. Under SVEP, a block is taken as the unit for implementation. The guidelines specify that the activities under SVEP are to be completed in a period of 4 years in any selected block.

Inclusion of MPs in District Development Coordination Committee

880. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to include the Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) in the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee constituted in each district to monitor Central Schemes like MGNREGA, etc., to check irregularities; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA) have been constituted in 689 Districts of the country under the Chairmanship of Members of Parliament with a view to fulfill the objective of ensuring better coordination among all elected representatives of Parliament, State Legislature and Local Governments, in monitoring the progress of programmes aimed at socio- economic transformation at the district level. Presently, 42 Schemes of various Central Ministries are being monitored through DISHA initiative. The schemes included under the initiative include MGNREGA.

Evaluation of NSAP

881. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to conduct a study to evaluate the success of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a pension programme, rolled out few years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said pension programme has been suffering from implementation hurdles, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures being adopted by Government to make the programme hurdle-free?