

Amount spent under MGNREGS

2226. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount Central Government has spent, out of its full year budget, for the flagship rural job guarantee scheme, MGNREGS;
- (b) whether Government proposes to allocate more funds to the scheme to boost rural economy; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has released ₹ 54432.64 crore to the States/UTs for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), out of the Budget allocation of ₹ 60,000 crore in the FY 2019-20 (as on 29.11.2019).

(b) and (c) The Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment programme. Fund release to the States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to making funds available keeping in view the demand for work. The Ministry seeks additional fund for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS from the Ministry of Finance as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground.

Watershed projects in Odisha

2227. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for non-sanction of new watershed projects since 2015-16 for the State of Odisha which is predominantly a rain-fed State; and
- (b) whether steps would be taken for release of assistance from Central Government for smooth completion of 76 watershed projects in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The Government is focusing on completion of all on-going projects and therefore no new projects under Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) have been sanctioned with effect from 2015-16.

(b) 310 watershed development projects were sanctioned under WDC-PMKSY (erstwhile IWMP) during 2009-10 to 2014-15 in Odisha involving an area of 17.00 lakh ha at a total cost of ₹ 2191.50 crore. So far an amount of ₹ 1004.31 crore has been released as Central share to the State. Out of 310 projects, as decided by Government based on the performance of the projects, 76 preparatory phase projects had been transferred to the State on 01.08.2018 with a request to implement them with State budget. As on 03.12.2019, out of balance 234 projects being funded by DoLR, 127 have been reported completed and 107 are in Works Phase. As per the information received from the State, ₹ 103.52 crore unspent balance is available for implementation of projects as on 30.11.2019.

Increase in MGNREGA wages to match agricultural wages

2228. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to link the MGNREGA wages to CPI (Rural) instead of CPI (AL) as is being recommended by the Committee under the Chairpersonship of former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry intends to increase MGNREGA wages to match the minimum agricultural wages for all the States, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) A Committee was constituted to study, *inter-alia*, the appropriate index for revising Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) wages. The Committee recommended using Consumer Price Index-Rural (CPI-R) instead of the existing Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) for revising Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage every year. The Committee also recommended use of annual average instead of the existing practice of using December month index only. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination in consultation with other Ministries including the Ministry of Finance.

(b) No, Sir. As per section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rate every year for all States/UTs based on Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) published by Labour Bureau, Shimla.