

Utilisation of MGNREGS funds for flood control works

*324. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds can be utilised for flood control works in some States;

(b) if so, the details of the States eligible for using MGNREGS funds for flood control works;

(c) whether Government has been requested for extending these guidelines to other States also; and

(d) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) to (d) The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households, by providing on demand upto 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every rural household for doing unskilled manual work. Schedule-I of MGNREGA as amended from time to time lists the category of works on which the Schemes formulated by State Governments under Section 4(1) of the Act for giving effect to the provisions of the Act shall focus upon. A large number of works categories relating to water, irrigation and flood control and protection including drainage in water logged areas, deepening and repairing of flood channels, chaur renovation, construction of storm water drains for coastal protection, are included in Schedule -I of the Act and can be taken up under MGNREGA.

Gram Panchayats in meetings of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabha are to determine the order of priority of works to be taken up under MGNREGA. No separate funds are released for flood control works under MGNREGA and all States can take up works listed in Schedule-I of the Act under existing guidelines.

Committee to examine irregularities in national highways projects

*325. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the composition of the Committee appointed to examine the irregularities and corruption in national highways projects in India funded by the World Bank;