

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2018

EMBEZZLEMENT OF FUNDS UNDER MGNREGS

1133. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to regulate the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the light of widespread corruption being reported in its implementation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that embezzlement of funds under MGNREGS has taken place in a large-scale and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the scheme is suffering from procedural lapses in the implementation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in addressing these issues/lapses particularly the corruption?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (c): No widespread corruption has been reported to the Ministry. Nevertheless, the Ministry has taken several steps with a view to bring in more transparency in the system and to minimize leakages. The Ministry has introduced Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) under which 96% of wage payments are electronically credited into the accounts of the workers through DBT system. The Government has started National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 24 States and 1 UT for direct payment of wages into workers account. The State Governments/UTs have been advised to get the registered households verified through Panchayat functionaries to ensure correctness in the database of the programme. After due verification, job cards have been deleted due to reasons like fakes, duplicate, wrong allocation, deceased etc. To bring in more visibility and transparency, the Ministry has started geotagging of assets and has made available the geotags in public domain. The Ministry has also launched a mobile app 'JANMANREGA' which is citizen centric where the citizen can view assets, verify the same and give feed backs.

(d) & (e): The Programme has many inbuilt system for transparency and accountability. The Auditing standard for Social Audit has been prepared in consultation with C&AG. The Ministry, under MGNREGA receives complaints of irregularities including misuse of funds etc. from States/UTs. 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. Steps have been taken to strengthen the system of Ombudsmen in the States. State specific reviews of States are also undertaken from time to time. Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors also visit various districts to oversee the performance of MGNREGA.
