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Title: Need to ensure payment of minimum wages to workers engaged in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI): In 60 years of Indian Republic, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is an important scheme aimed to provide 100 man days of work to rural agricultural labourers every year to remove poverty and develop agricultural activities. This scheme is being implemented by the states. In the states daily wages have been fixed on the basis of the Minimum Wages Acts and are notified. Accordingly in Tamil Nadu, it has been ordered to provide Rs. 148/- per day to the labourers.

However, against the provision, the daily wages are given even below Rs.40/-. On what basis an amount of Rs. 40/- is being provided? What is the reason? Why the purchasing power of the people has been not been taken into account.

If payment is made on the basis of work done, through measurement mechanism, then this practice should be given up. There is a view that in the name of social audit, officials of the department are intimidated. Whether social audit was included in the scheme to minimize the wages? In order to find a solution to this problem, the Union Government should fix the wages of the MGNREGA workers on the basis of daily wages and also wages should not be less than the wages specified in the Minimum Wages Act. Wherever less amount was paid, the arrears of the additional wages should be calculated and the same should be given to the beneficiaries.