

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1649
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2007
PAYMENT OF FEWER WAGES UNDER NREGS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received complaints from various quarters regarding payment of less wages than the prescribed under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);
- (b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the last one year; and
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government against the State Governments which have paid wages less than the fixed ones?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Three complaints were received.

(c) Section 6(l) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) prescribes that notwithstanding anything contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of the Act provided that different rates of wages may be specified for different areas and that the wage rate specified from time to time under any such notification shall not be at a rate less than sixty rupees per day. Section 6(2) of the Act, further provides that until such time as a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers, shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. Central Government has not notified any wage rate and therefore minimum wages for agricultural workers fixed by respective states are applicable. In most of the States minimum wages fixed are task based and the payment varies from work to work depending upon the quantum of work. NREGA operative guidelines issued by the Central Government require the states to properly specify the tasks and take up comprehensive Time and Motion studies. Based on the studies, Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have revised the norms of out put. Rajasthan also relaxed norms during intense heat conditions in summers in drought affected areas.