

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3682

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2007

IRREGULARITIES UNDER NREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rampant corruption, widespread irregularities, delay in payment, fewer working days and lack of awareness are some of the hurdles that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is facing today;
- (b) whether instead of 100 days work, people have received only 10-25 days work in many districts and there was considerable delay in payment of wages in many places;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to involve voluntary organizations to prevent corruption in the scheme;
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far; and
- (f) the further steps to be taken by the Government to check irregularities and towards making the scheme more transparent and implementing the same effectively?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b)& (c) NREGA is demand based and so the number of days of employment provided will depend on the demand of the household.

(d)& (e) Voluntary organizations may be involved for IEC and training activities. Section 17(2) of the NREG Act, 2005 provides for social audit by the Gram Sabha. The Ministry lays emphasis on social audit, monitoring and verification of works, voluntary disclosure of critical data and setting up of local Vigilance and Monitoring Committees for greater transparency.

(f) Monitoring of the implementation of NREGA is done on a regular basis by the Government. State and district level Monitoring and Vigilance Committees have been set up. Periodic review meetings have been undertaken by Minister of Rural Development and Secretary (Rural Development) from time to time. National Level Monitors (NLMs) and Area officers of the Ministry visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. Comprehensive MIS has been developed that places all vital data in public domain. States have been asked to set up Village level vigilance and monitoring committees for local monitoring. Guidelines provide that at least 2%, 10% and 100% works should be inspected by State, District and Block level officers respectively. Capacity building measures for social audit has also been undertaken. State level communication campaign to enhance awareness about the programme have been taken. Print, audio visual media and cultural forums have been used for publicizing the programme. The Ministry is regularly monitoring not only physical parameters but qualitative indicators as well.