

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1664

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

ASSESSMENT OF MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment and undertaken any mid-term review of the ongoing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the success achieved in terms of targets and payment of wages to individuals etc. in each State and Union-Territory of the country since inception of this Yojana, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has identified some difficulties in the Yojana;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken for effective implementation of the Yojana and to provide special incentives to the States which are delivering better results?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a): The Ministry regularly reviews the performance of MGNREGA in all States on quarterly basis in the Performance Review Committee meetings. State specific reviews are also undertaken from time to time. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council also review the performance of MGNREGA during their visit to various districts.

(b): MGNREGA is demand based and hence, there are no predetermined targets under the Act. However, 2.10 crore households were provided employment under the Act in 2006-07, 3.39 crore during 2007-08, 4.51 crore during 2008-09 and 4.49 crore households have been provided employment in 2009-10 up to January, 2010. The average wage paid per person-days was Rs. 65 during 2006-07, Rs. 75 during 2007-08, Rs. 84 during 2008-09 and is Rs. 88.56 during 2009-10 so far.

(c) to (e): During the regular reviews of MGNREGA procedural deficiencies relating to application for employment, dated receipts for the application for work, job card formats, muster rolls, maintenance of record registers, delayed payment of wages, lack of an effective grievance redressal system, inspection of works, shortage of staff with the implementing agencies etc. have come to the notice of the Ministry. To minimize the recurrence of such incidents and for effective implementation of the Act, the Ministry has taken the following steps:

(i) Awareness generation through intensive IEC activities involving print as well as electronic media.

(ii) Permissible administrative expenditure limit has been enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for NREGA, strengthening of management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and ICT infrastructure

(iii) Payment through institutional accounts of NREGA workers to infuse transparency in wage disbursement. To cover gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics have been initiated

(iv) Instructions have been issued on 7.9.09 directing all States to appoint ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal in a time bound manner.

(v) Social audit: Modifications have been made in the Act on 31-12-08 for laying down the procedures for social audit.

(vi) Independent Monitoring by Eminent Citizens has been approved.

(vii) ICT based MIS to make data available to public scrutiny, inclusive of Job cards, Employment demanded and allocated, Days worked, Muster rolls, shelf of works, Funds available/spent and fund to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action.

(viii) Toll free Helpline No.1800110707 set up for making enquiries about NREGA and for grievance redressal.

(ix) District Excellence Awards have been introduced for districts with outstanding performance under the Act. 22 districts were awarded for their performance during 2007-08 and 25 districts have been awarded for their performance during 2008-09.