

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:337

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010

WORKING DAYS UNDER MGNREGS

Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

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

- (a) whether there has been a sizeable difference between the employment generated and actually provided under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the year 2009-10 and the steps taken to analyse and rectify this gap;
- (c) whether the target of hundred days of employment as guaranteed under the Act is not being provided to every person seeking employment under the scheme;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of persons applied for job cards and actually provided with hundred days wage employment under the scheme during the last two years, till date, State/UT-wise;
- (f) the details of wages disbursed during the above period indicating payment made directly to the beneficiaries in cash and those paid through bank/post office accounts respectively, State/UT-wise; and
- (g) the nature of grievance feedback received from the beneficiaries and the redressal steps taken by the Government to mitigate the same?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(DR. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 337 for answer on 19.4.2010

(a) & (b): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. A registered job seeker is required to give a written application demanding employment under the Act. Under the provisions of the Act, the applicant is to be provided employment within a period of 15 days from the date from which employment has been demanded. As per reports received from the State Governments, upto March, 2010, (provisional figures) 5.07 crore households had demanded employment out of which 5.05 crore households had been provided employment under the Act.

(c) & (d): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. The Act provides a legal guarantee for up to 100 days of wage employment on demand to every household in rural areas in a financial year for doing unskilled manual work. The workers are free to avail any other employment opportunities available to them. Thus, number of days of employment availed by a household under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in an area depends upon the availability of other employment opportunities available in that area.

(e) & (f): A household is the basic unit under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for issue of job cards and also for providing employment. State/UT-wise number of households issued job cards, completed 100 days of employment, total wages disbursed and wages disbursed through bank/post office accounts during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 (provisional) are given in the Annexure.

(g): The grievances of the beneficiaries as indicated in the complaints received in the Ministry mainly relate to non issuance/delay in issuance of job cards, non- issuance of dated receipts for application for employment, delay in wage payment, fake job cards and misuse of funds under the Act. To address the grievances of the beneficiaries, the Ministry has taken the following steps:

(i) 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

(ii) 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.

(iii) Payment of wages through accounts of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers in banks/post offices has been made mandatory. 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) The progress of the implementation of the Act is regularly reviewed and monitored in Performance Review Committee meetings which are held on quarterly basis, State-specific reviews and visits by NLMs and Central Council members.

(vi) Scheme of Independent monitoring by Eminent Citizens has been approved.