

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:421  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010  
IMPACT OF MGNREGS  
Singh Shri Bhola

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

- (a) the extent to which Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been successful in poverty alleviation in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) whether the Government has ever analysed the critical feedback reported in the media about the said scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the further steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

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

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 421 for answer on 26.4.2010

(a): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides for enhancement of livelihood security of the rural households by providing atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA was launched in 200 districts in its first phase on 2.2.2006. Additional 130 districts were covered under the Act during 2007-08 and all the remaining rural areas in the country have been covered from 1.4.2008. 2.10 crore households were provided employment under the Act in 2006-07; 3.39 crore in 2007-08; 4.51 crore in 2008-09 and 4.79 crore have been provided employment during 2009-10 (up to February,2010). Since inception of the Act, 701.71 crore mandays of employment have been generated. Participation of SC and ST beneficiaries in the total employment generated has been more than 50%. Participation by women has been 40% in 2006-07; 43% in 2007-08; 48% in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (up to February, 2010). The average wages paid under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has increased from Rs.75 in 2007-2008 to Rs.90 in 2009-10 upto February, 2010. With the increase in employment opportunities and wage rates, there has been a significant dent in poverty in rural areas. Per household earning has increased from Rs.2795 in 2006-07 to Rs.3150 in 2007-08 to Rs.4060 in 2008-09. Increase in income has resulted in increase in ability of rural households to purchase food grains, other essential commodities, and to access education and health care.

(b)to(d): Cases of irregularities in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in various States have been reported in the media. All such cases are referred to the concerned State Governments for conducting an enquiry as per the provisions of the Act. Ministry of Rural Development also deputes Central Teams including National Level Monitors for conducting an enquiry into the alleged irregularities.

(e): The Ministry has taken the following steps to minimize recurrence of such instances.

(i) To infuse transparency and accountability in NREGA a Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) ([www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in)) has been made operational which places all critical parameters such as job cards, muster rolls, wage payments, number of days of employment provided and works under execution online for monitoring and easy public access for information.

(ii) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA

(iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers. To cover the gaps in financial services and outreach, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards and biometrics have been initiated.

(iv) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued directing all State Governments for setting up of the office of Ombudsman at district level for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.

- (v) Eminent Citizens to be involved in monitoring and independent assessment of the implementation of the Act
- (vi) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.
- (vii) Emphasis on works on individual land of small and marginal farmers particularly those belonging to SCs/STs and BPL.
- (viii) Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra to be constructed in each Gram Panchayat and Block of the country. This will act as a centre for dissemination of knowledge and delivery of public services to the rural households.
- (ix) Building durable assets and promotion of sustainable development through convergence of government programme.
- (x) Institution building by strengthening the administrative apparatus responsible for implementation by deployment of additional engineers, accountants, IT professionals, social audit coordinators, etc.
- (xi) The Ministry is further strengthening the vigilance mechanism within the Ministry for greater effectiveness.