

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3834
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
PAYMENT OF WAGES UNDER MGNREGS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the number of complaints about non- payment/untimely payment of wages to workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is increasing day- by-day;
- (b) if so, the number of such complaints received by the Union Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to the State Governments in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken for effective implementation of the scheme; and
- (e) the other effective action being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure payment to MGNREGS workers in time as well as to provide allowance to the unemployed?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA was launched in 200 districts on 2.2.2006. 130 additional districts were brought under the Act during 2007-08 and all the remaining rural areas in the country have been covered under the Act from 1.4.2008. During the last three years of its implementation, a total of 96 complaints regarding non-payment of wages and 36 complaints regarding untimely payment of wages have been received in the Ministry. State-wise number of complaints are as given below:

S.No.	State	Number of complaints relating to non-payment of wages	Number of complaints relating to untimely payment of wages
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1	Andhra Pradesh	3	1
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2	Assam	4	0
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3	Bihar	5	4
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4	Chhattisgarh	2	1
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5	Gujarat	2	2
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6	Haryana	1	1
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7	Jharkhand	6	2
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8	Karnataka	2	0
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9	Kerala	2	0
10	Madhya Pradesh	17	4
11	Maharashtra	2	1
12	Orissa	2	2
13	Punjab	1	1
14	Rajasthan	7	4
15	Uttar Pradesh	35	10
16	Uttarakhand	1	1
17	West Bengal	4	2
	TOTAL	96	36

(c) to (e): With a view to ensure transparency in the payment of wages to Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers, the following steps have been taken:

(i) Payment of wages through accounts of the workers in banks/post offices has been made mandatory. To cover the gaps in financial services and outreach, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards and biometrics have been initiated.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

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

Unemployment allowance under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA becomes payable if an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date from which the employment has been sought in the case of an advance application, whichever is later. Unemployment allowance is paid by the concerned State Government from its own resources.