

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5021

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010

BENEFITS OF MGNREGS

Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether propelling agriculture high growth is imperative for the success of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, whether the MGNREGS is likely to safeguard natural resources and ensure equitable rewards for agricultural growth during second green revolution;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether MGNREGS would also be helpful in recharging the groundwater, improve soil fertility and conservation of bio-diversity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is to enhance the 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. Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor is also an important objective of the Act. The focus of activities permissible under the Act is on water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing, flood control, micro and minor irrigation works and irrigation facilities on the individual land owned by SC/ST/BPL/IAY beneficiaries and small & marginal farmers. All these activities support the agricultural growth.

(d)&(e): Activities such as water harvesting and water conservation, drought proofing, flood control and afforestation which are permissible under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are helpful in recharging the ground water and in improving soil fertility.