

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:531
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN UNDER MGNREGS
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of a gender bias in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as women including single, divorcee and widow are denied opportunities to work and job cards are not issued in their names;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Union Government has issued directives to the States in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps proposed to be taken to ensure gender neutrality under the scheme?

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 parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.531 for answer on 03-05-2010

(a) & (b): Proviso to para 6 of Schedule-II of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the Act. Para 34 of this Schedule further provides that in case of every employment under the scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act 1976 shall be complied with. A household is the basic unit for issuance of job card and providing employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act. As per reports received from various States, 1.59 crore job cards have been issued to women headed households and 84.01 lakh to single women household. 3.56 crore women were employed under Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act during the year 2009-10.

(c) & (d): Adequate provisions exist in the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in this regard.

(e): Para 7 of Schedule-I of the Act provides that when wages are directly linked with the quantity of work, the wages shall be paid according to the schedule of rates fixed by the State Governments for different types of work every year. Vide Notification dated 14-01-2008, a new para No. 8-A has been inserted after paragraph 8 in Schedule-I regarding fixing of the Schedule of Rates which is as follows:

‘The average out-turn of the work out put by men and women workers working in a group will be the basis for fixing task based Schedule of rates so that there is no gender based discrimination in the Schedule of rates’.