

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:537

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010

CORRUPTION IN MGNREGS

Kumar Shri Shailendra;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lack of transparency and alleged irregularities/corruption have been reported in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in various States including Punjab during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the nature of the irregularities noticed during the above period, State-wise;
- (c) whether the social audits by gram panchayats are being undertaken as per the new prescribed procedure;
- (d) if so, the number of such audits conducted during the last two years and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the State specific performance review, visits of Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council to various districts, independent monitoring by eminent citizens and monitoring of the schemes by district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee are held at regular intervals; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise, during the above period?

Answer

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

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

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.537 for answer on 03-05-2010

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received in the Ministry regarding irregularities in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in various States including Punjab. The reported irregularities mainly relate to non-issue/delay in issuance of job cards, delayed/non-payment/ less payment of wages, non-issue of dated receipt for the applications for work, misuse of funds, work not being provided and violation of guidelines.

(c) & (d): Section 17(2) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides that Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audit of all the projects taken up within the Gram Panchayat under the scheme. As per reports received from the State Governments, during 2008-09 social audit was held in 2.19 lakh Gram Panchayats for 2.58 lakh works. During 2009-10, State Governments were directed to prepare district-wise social audit calendar and conduct social audit of each work within three months and up load it on the web site of NREGA www.nrega.nic.in. As reported on the web site, out of a total of 620 districts, 574 districts have prepared their social audit calendar and 2.59 lakh social audits have been conducted in 1.95 lakh Gram Panchayats. During the process of Social audit irregularities such as misuse of funds, non-issuance of job cards, job cards without photos, non fulfillment of 1/3rd quota for women, delay in wage payments/under payments have been reported. Corrective/remedial measures taken in respect of the reported irregularities include recovery of funds, updation of job cards, dismissal of functionaries and prosecution of Sarpanch under Section 40 and issue of show cause notices.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. Members of Central Employment Guarantee Council regularly visit various districts to oversee the progress of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. 27 visits to various districts covering different States have been made by the members so far. State specific reviews were taken up in Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra in which members of the Central Council had also participated. Reports submitted by the Central Council members brought out irregularities in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The reports are sent to the concerned State Government for taking corrective /remedial measure as well as action against the officers found guilty. Reports by the members as well as action taken by the State Governments are also posted on the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA web site. Scheme of independent monitoring by Eminent citizens has been approved. As regards the meetings of district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, 609 meetings were held during 2008-09 and 379 meetings were held during 2009-10. State-wise number of meetings held is given in the Annexure.