

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5936
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
ASSET CREATION SCHEMES UNDER MGNREGS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has emphasised very little on asset creation schemes;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is an unholy nexus among officials, sarpanches and beneficiaries; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to break this nexus and ensure that the funds earmarked for this purpose are spent judiciously and in an honest way?

Answer

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

- (a): It has been stipulated in para 2 of Schedule-I of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA that creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor shall be an important objective of the Scheme. The permissible activities have been stipulated in para 1 of the Schedule. The choice of works under the Act is such that they address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation, soil erosion so that the process of employment generation is on a sustainable basis.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): The Ministry has received a total of 10 complaints alleging nexus among officials, sarpanches and beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
- (d): With a view to ensure transparency in the utilisation of funds under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, the Ministry has taken the following steps:
 - (i) A Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) (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) 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 and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics and business correspondent models have been initiated.
 - (iii) 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.
 - (iv) Scheme for Independent Monitoring by eminent citizens has been approved.
 - (v) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.