

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5937
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
EXCLUSION OF FARMERS FROM MGNREGS
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

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) is lining the pockets of a few, distorting the entire rural economy and creating great social disharmony as reported in the media recently;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether farmers as well as farmer friendly schemes like water conservation schemes are being excluded from this scheme on various grounds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps proposed to have a comprehensive study in this regard and to plug loopholes in the scheme?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No such cases have been brought to the notice of Ministry of Rural Development. However, the Ministry has received complaints regarding irregularities, including corruption in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

(c) to (e): Works permissible under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA have been stipulated in para 1 of Schedule-I of the Act in their order of priority. Focus of the Act is on water conservation and water harvesting, irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works and renovation of traditional water bodies. All these works which are permissible under the Act support agricultural activities.

Small and marginal farmers have been included under the Act for taking up activities on their individual lands. Para 1 (iv) of Schedule-I of the Act has been amended vide notification dated 24-07-2009. The amended para is as given below:

‘Provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes or below poverty line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of Government of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debit Relief Scheme, 2008.’