

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:43
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010
REVIEW OF MGNREGS
Lal Shri Kirodi ;Singh Shri Bhola

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey/study has been conducted recently to assess the benefit of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some State Governments have made a request to the Union Government to increase the existing 100 working days limit to 200 working days;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government in this regard;
- (e) whether payment to labours including physically handicapped in weaker sections under the said scheme is being made according to the approved rates of the work; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the number of persons including physically handicapped who have been provided employment since the beginning of the scheme?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. A number of studies have been conducted by professional institutions including IITs, IIMs, social services institutes and Agricultural Universities to assess the impact of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in rural areas. The studies conducted so far have revealed the following:

(i) Impact on wage rates and poverty: Employment opportunities and wage rates have gone up leading to significant dent in poverty in rural areas. At the National Level, the average wages paid under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has increased from Rs.75 in 2007-2008 to Rs.91 in 2009-10.

(ii) Impact on Income and Purchasing Power: Increase in wage rate and employment opportunities in rural areas has increased the income of rural households. Earnings per households has increased from Rs.2795 in 2006-07 to Rs.3150 in 2007-08 to Rs.4060 in 2008-09. Increase in income has resulted in increase in ability of rural households to purchase food grains, other essential commodities, and to access education and health care.

(iii) Impact on natural resources: 46.01 lakhs works taken up during 2009-10, mostly (68%) relating to water conservation. Rise in water table in dry and arid regions as large number of water conservation and drought proofing works have been taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

(iv) Impact on distress migration: Distress migration has come down. Instead of the whole family migrating, only the male members go in search of jobs and females alongwith children continue to live in the villages and work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. The Ministry received a proposal from Chief Minister of Rajasthan for enhancement of the number of days of guaranteed wage employment under NREGA from 100 to 200 days. Another proposal was received from Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for increasing the number of days of guaranteed employment to 200 days in drought affected areas. Sh. Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Member Parliament (Rajya Sabha) also sent a letter requesting for increasing the number of days of employment in Scheduled Tribe areas.

The proposals were considered in the Ministry. The average number of employment availed at national level was 43 days in 2006-07, 42 days in 2007-08, 48 days in 2008-09 and 43 days during the current year so far. Further, the primary objective of NREGA is to provide a supplementary wage employment to the rural households on demand. It should operate in a way that other forms of employment opportunities are also available to the people and promote an overall economic development of the country. For drought-affected areas, funds are provided from the CRF/NCCF by the Ministry of Home Affairs for employment generation and other measures. In view of this, it is desirable to continue for the present with the existing guarantee of 100 days of employment as provided under the Act.

(e): Yes, Sir. Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, wages are paid to the workers, including disabled persons, in accordance with the Schedule of Rates as fixed by the State Governments. Out put of a worker is measured and payment is made accordingly.

(f): A household is the basic unit for providing employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. However, data in respect of the disabled persons is maintained in terms of number of persons. State-wise details of the notified wage rate, number of households and number of disabled persons provided employment during the last four years is given in the Annexure.