

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3013
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2009
WORKING HOURS UNDER NREGS
Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has fixed working hours for the workers under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any change has been made recently in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): Para 8 of Schedule 1 of NREG Act provided that the Schedule of rates of wages for unskilled labourers shall be so fixed that a person working for seven hours would normally earn a wage equal to the wage rate. The Government, vide notification dated 14th January, 2008 has substituted Para 8 of Schedule 1 of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as under:

(i) '8(1) The Schedule of rates of wages for various unskilled labourers shall be so fixed that an adult person working for nine hours would normally earn a wage equal to the wage rate.

8(2) The working days of an adult worker shall be so arranged that inclusive of intervals of rest, if any, it shall not spread over more than twelve hours on any day.'

It has been further clarified vide circular dated 28.5.08 that nine hours of work as indicated in para 8(1) is inclusive of one hour of interval of rest. This amendment has been carried out to bring NREG Act in conformity with Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in so far as the issues of working hours and wage rates are concerned

(ii) After Para 8, the following Para shall be inserted, namely:-

'8-A. The average out-turns of work put out 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 discrimination in the Schedule of rates.'

Para 8 of Schedule 1 of NREG Act provided that the schedule of rates of wages for unskilled labourers shall be so fixed that a person working for seven hours would normally earn a wage equal to the wage rate. Vide notification dated 14th January 2008, Para 8 of Schedule 1 has been amended to provide for nine hours of work, including one hour of interval of rest against the earlier period of seven hours to earn a wage equal to the wage rate. Provision for average out turn of work put out by the NREGA workers has also been made in Schedule 1 of the Act by inserting Para 8-A after Para 8 which reads as under:

'The average out-turns of work put out 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 discrimination in the Schedule of rates.'