

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:114  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010  
CORRUPTION IN MGNREGS  
Gorakhnath Shri ;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of complaints of corruption in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the nature and the types of complaints received during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the number of persons/officials found guilty of corruption/irregularities and the action taken against them; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to further check corruption in MGNREGS?

**Answer**

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

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

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 114 for answer on 2.8.2010

(a)&(b): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has been implemented in the country in a phased manner. 200 districts were covered in the first phase, additional 130 districts were brought under the Act during 2007-08 and the Act was extended to all remaining rural areas from 1.4.2008. As the volume, scale and intensity of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has increased many fold since its inception, number of cases of corruption reported to the Ministry has increased. A total of 1396 complaints have so far been reported to the Ministry under the Act.

(c): Details of action taken report in complaints of serious nature is given in annexure-I.

(d): With a view to check corruption in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, the following corrective measures have been taken:

(i) Permissible administrative expenditure limit has been enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for NREGA, strengthening of management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and ICT infrastructure.

(ii) Payment through accounts of NREGA workers to infuse transparency in wage disbursement. To cover gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics have been initiated.

(iii) ICT based MIS to make data available to public scrutiny, inclusive of Job cards, Employment demanded and allocated, Days worked, Muster rolls, shelf of works, Funds available/spent and fund to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action.

(iv) Instructions have been issued on 7.9.2009 directing all States to appoint ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.

(v) Independent appraisal by professional institutions including IITs and IIMs and Agricultural Universities

(vi) Independent Monitoring by NLM and Eminent Citizens.

(vii) Visit by Central Council members

(viii) Periodic reviews with State Governments

(ix) Instructions have been issued to all States that release of second tranche of funds under the Act would be linked with disposal of complaints within the given timeframe.

(ix) The Ministry has set up six Working Groups on different aspects impacting the implementation of the Act. These Working Groups cover (a) Planning and Execution,(b)Wages, (c)Transparency and Accountability,(d)Capacity Building,(e) Specific needs of specific

category of workers and (f) Works to be taken up on individual land. All the Working Groups have submitted their draft reports.