

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1251

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010

PAYMENT OF WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the workers engaged in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS) are not getting timely payment of wages;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons for the same;
- (c) whether the Government has issued fresh guidelines to the States in this regard; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Complaints regarding delayed payment of wages to the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers have been received in the Ministry. The main reasons for delay in payment of wages are (i) delay in measurement of works due to lack of adequate technical staff with the implementing authorities and (ii) disbursement of wages through banks/post offices due to poor outreach and infrastructure facilities with them.

(c): Yes, Sir. With a view to resolve the issue of shortage of technical personnel in the Blocks and Gram Panchayats for effective implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, instructions have been issued to all States for deployment of two engineers per 6000 population of rural households in plain areas and two engineers per 3000 population of rural households in North-eastern and Hill States. Salary of such personnel is to be met out of the administrative expenses under the Act which is borne by the Central Government.

(d): Following corrective measures have been taken in this regard:-

(i) Administrative expenditure under the Act has been enhanced from 4% to 6%.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages. 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 and business correspondent models have been initiated.

(iv) States have been directed to adhere to a strict time schedule of weekly muster roll for observance to reduce administrative delays and to ensure payment of wages within a fortnight to all labourers

(v) Ministry has taken up the matter with Department of Financial Services and is also in regular coordination with Banks/Post offices.