

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1293
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010
PARTICIPATION OF SCs/STs UNDER MGNREGS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are among the beneficiaries of employment created under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has declined;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any steps taken or being taken for participation of SCs and STs in adequate number in works under MGNREGS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has been introduced in the country in a phased manner. 200 selected districts had been covered under the Act in the first phase. 130 additional districts were covered during 2007-08 and the remaining rural areas were covered from 1.4.2008. The districts selected for implementation of the Act in the first phase had a higher percentage of SC/ST population. Participation of beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST category under the Act is maintained in terms of the person-days of employment provided. As per reports available, share of SC beneficiaries under the Act was 25% in 2006-07, 27% in 2007-08, 29% in 2008-09 and 31% in 2009-10. Share of ST beneficiaries was 36% in 2006-07, 29% in 2007-08, 25% in 2008-09 and 21% in 2009-10.

(c) to (e): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. All rural households are eligible to register themselves for issue of a job card and apply for employment subject to a maximum of 100 days per household in a financial year. However, as per amendment made in para 1(iv) of Schedule-I of the Act from time to time, works on individual land of certain categories of beneficiaries have been allowed. The amended provision is as given below:

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

Ministry has issued instructions dated 1.9.2009 to all States that in order to ensure compliance with the amendment, works on the land of SC/ST households will be taken on priority. Once the works on the land of SC/ST household are saturated in a Gram Panchayat, works on the land of small and marginal farmers may be considered.