

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1372  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010  
INTERLINKING OF MGNREGS WITH SANITATION  
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering interlinking MGNREGS to eradicate the problem of open defecation by 2010;
- (b) if so, whether interlinking would lead to utilization of funds available under material and labour components of MGNREGS and thereby expedite programme;
- (c) whether the Government's total sanitation programme has so far covered only 61.79 per cent of rural areas;
- (d) whether under this scheme there would be a different wage index under the scheme, one that may not necessarily be linked to the price index but will be close to real wages; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a): No, Sir. Convergence initiatives have been taken with the select Ministries/Departments in respect of permissible works under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The activities involved in the total sanitation campaign scheme are not permissible works under the Act.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): With the implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), total sanitation coverage in rural areas as reported by the States over online monitoring system has increased to about 66.97% by the end of June 2010.
- (d) & (e): Do not arise in view of (a) above.