

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1209
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010
SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS UNDER MGNREGS
Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mandate accorded under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been expanded to accommodate small and marginal farmers including those belonging to the Schedule Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of funds earmarked and utilized for the said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Government has extended the benefits of works on individual lands as stipulated in para 1 (iv) of Schedule I of NREG Act to small and marginal farmers vide Notification dated 22.7.2009. Para 1 (iv) of Schedule-I of the Act as amended from time to time reads as under:

"Provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule 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."

Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, funds are released to the States/districts based on the labour demand arising at the field level. There is no project-wise allocation of funds under the Act.