

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2488

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010

WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether wages have been fixed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the rate of wages fixed under it;
- (c) whether wages are being paid to the labourers working under MGNREGS at less rates in some States like Punjab;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the rate of wages paid in the country varies from State to State;
- (e) the action taken by the Government regarding non-payment/delay in payment and to provide uniform wages to all the labourers working under MGNREGS;
- (f) whether the Government has noticed any irregularities/misappropriation of funds in distributing such amount to the workers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against guilty officials?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Central Government has notified wage rate in respect of all States/Union Territories in accordance with the powers conferred under Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and also in accordance with the announcement made by Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech 2009-10 for a real wage rate of Rs. 100 per person/day. Wage rate as notified by Central Government for all States/ Union Territories is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): Wages under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are paid on the basis of out put of a worker and in accordance with the Schedule of Rates as fixed by the State Governments. However, the Ministry has received complaints regarding less payment of wages under the Act. No such complaints have been received in respect of Punjab.

(e) to (g): Whenever any irregularity in the implementation of the act is brought to the notice of the Ministry, it is sent to the concerned State Government for taking appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act. In cases of complaints of serious nature, the Ministry deputs Area Officer or National Level Monitors (NLM) to the concerned district to enquire into the matter. Their findings are shared with the State Governments which take action against the guilty officers in accordance with the provisions of the Act. However, to check such instances, the Ministry has taken the following measures:

(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) Instructions have been issued on 7.9.09 directing all States to appoint ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.

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

(v) Independent Monitoring by NLM and Eminent Citizens.

(vi) Visit by Central Council members

(vii) 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.

(viii) Periodic reviews with State Governments

(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.