

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2516  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010  
STRENGTHENING OF MGNREGS  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether a three day long workshop of the coordination group attached to the Ministry as also other principal stakeholders met at Hyderabad to discuss issues to strengthen Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the discussion held in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to take up Government's flagship projects to a new level by seeking to strengthening of the MGNREGS and eliminating its main deficiencies and shortcomings; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and measures being taken by the Government to take the flagship programme to a new level?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): A two day Workshop of the Coordination Group to facilitate presentation of reports of the Working Groups to the Central Employment Guarantee Council was held at Hyderabad on 12th and 13th July, 2010. Draft reports of four Working Groups namely (i) Working Group on Planning and Execution, (ii) Working Group on Capacity Building, (iii) Working Group on specific needs of specific category of workers and (iv) Working Group on works to be taken up on individual land were presented and discussed during the Workshop. It was decided during the Workshop that draft reports of the two remaining Working Groups i.e. Working Group on Wages and Working Group on Transparency and Accountability will be presented at Delhi. Accordingly, a meeting was held on 15th July and draft reports of the two Working Groups were presented and discussed.

(c) & (d): With a view to strengthen the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and eliminate its deficiencies, 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. All the Working Groups have submitted their draft reports.

(x) National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD) has been asked to conduct work census in one pilot district each in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

(xi) Quality audit of the works taken up under the Act: With a view to ensure that works created are of good quality, economical,

productive and durable, quality audit of the works is to be done. The Ministry has finalized the Terms of reference for conducting the quality audit.