

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3663
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGS
Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a fact finding Committee has found serious irregularities in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in several States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several districts which have been misusing the MGNREGS funds are continuously getting assistance;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities and ensure effective implementation of the scheme?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government has not constituted any Fact Finding Committee to monitor the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. However, during regular reviews of the implementation of the Act, visits by NLMs and Central Council members, through media reports and by way of complaints made by individuals, irregularities in the implementation of the Act have come to the notice of the Ministry of Rural Development. All cases of irregularities are referred to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

(c) & (d): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. Funds are released by the Centre based on the labour demand arising at the field level. Under the Act, Central Government is committed to bear the entire cost of wages paid to unskilled workers which are to be paid within 15 days from the date on which work was done. Cases relating to misuse of MGNREGA funds are taken up with the concerned State Governments for conducting enquiry and for taking action against the guilty officials in accordance with the provisions of the Act and also for taking disciplinary action against the service rules applicable to the officials.

To check such irregularities and to ensure effective implementation of the scheme, the following steps have been taken:

(i) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued directing all State Governments for setting up of the office of Ombudsman at district level for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.

(ii) A Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) (www.nrega.nic.in) has been made operational which places all critical parameters such as job cards, muster rolls, wage payments, number of days of employment provided and works under execution online for monitoring and easy public access for information.

(iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers. To cover the gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics and business correspondent models have been initiated.

(iv) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA

(v) Scheme of Independent Monitoring by eminent citizens has been introduced.

(vi) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

(vii) In cases of misappropriation and embezzlement of Government funds under MGNREGA, all State Governments have been requested to ensure that not only disciplinary action should be taken against the guilty officials, but simultaneously criminal prosecution should also be initiated under Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act, besides recovering the amount involved from the persons concerned in accordance with the Law.