

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2506

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010

REVIEW OF MGNREGA

Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausaheb;Rajendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a review/study has been conducted about the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and other rural development programmes in the country including Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the names of major on-going and pending projects under MGNREGS in the country and the amount spent thereon during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether any targets have been fixed and achieved during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the shortcomings noticed while implementing the schemes;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review the efficacy of works executed under MGNREGS;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the findings therein; and
- (g) the action taken with respect to irregularities/misappropriation of funds noticed while implementing the such projects?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir. The Ministry reviews the performance of MGNREGA in all States on quarterly basis in the Performance Review Committee meetings. State specific reviews are also undertaken from time to time. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council, National Level Monitors and Eminent Citizens also visit various districts to oversee the performance of MGNREGA. A number of studies by professional institutions including IITs, IIMs, Social service institutions and Agricultural Universities have also been conducted to evaluate and assess the impact of the Act in rural areas.

(b): Activities to be taken up under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA have been stipulated in para 1 of Schedule-I of the Act. Focus of the Act is on water conservation and water harvesting. As per reports received from the States, more than 50% of the total works taken up relate to water conservation and irrigation facilities. State-wise details of the water conservation works under the Act during last three years and current year so far are given in Annexure-I. Total expenditure by the States during the said period is given in Annexure-II.

(c) & (d): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based and therefore, there are predetermined targets under the Act. The shortcomings noticed in the implementation of the Act are (i) lack of awareness among the rural population about their legal rights under the Act, (ii) lack of adequate staff with the implementing authorities and (iii) delay in payment of wages to workers.

(e) & (f): With a view to review the efficacy of works executed under the Act, action has been initiated to conduct quality audit of the works. The objective of quality audit is to ensure that works carried out are properly planned, designed and executed so that the assets created are of good quality, economical, productive and durable. The Ministry has finalized the Terms of reference for conducting the quality audit.

(g): The Act is being implemented in all States/UTs in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Therefore, 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 deutes 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.