

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1137

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNDER MGNREGS

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath; Tomar Shri Narendra Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers have not been included under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is keeping any data base with regard to the employment provided through MGNREGS to the agricultural workers;
- (d) if so, the details of annual working days for agricultural workers, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to enact a comprehensive Central Legislation for these agricultural workers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is open to all rural households willing to do unskilled manual work. Therefore, farmers can also apply for work under the Act. In addition, Small and marginal farmers have been included under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA by an amendment made in para 1(iv) of the list of permissible activities provided in Schedule-I of the Act. The amendment made is 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 Debit Relief Scheme, 2008.’

(c) & (d): No, Sir. Employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is open for all rural households. Adult members of any rural household, irrespective of their family profession may register themselves and get a job card issued. Thereafter, they need to apply for work and get employment as per the provisions of the Act. Separate data base for agricultural labourers provided employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is not maintained.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise.