

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:362

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010

EXPANSION OF MGNREGS

Bais Shri Ramesh;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received from various quarters for expansion of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), so as to include every person in the family instead of one person per family at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other steps taken for renewal and expansion of MGNREGS alongwith the empowerment of rural women in the country;

(d) whether the Government is considering to link more productive activities to create tangible assets paving way for ensuring logistic support for the overall development of the rural areas in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 362 for answer on 6.12.2010

(a)&(b): Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, all adult members of a household can get employment subject to an overall ceiling of 100 days of employment per household in every financial year.

(c): All rural areas of the country have been covered under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Progress of the Act is reviewed from time to time and amendments have been made in para 1 of Schedule-I of the Act to include additional activities under the Act.

Regarding empowerment of rural women, MGNREGA in para 6 of Schedule-II provides that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under this Act. The current share of participation by women under MGNREGA is 52% which is well above the 1/3rd participation envisaged under the Act. In para 34 of Schedule-II, the Act further provides that there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 shall be complied with.

(d)&(e): MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Focus of the activities permissible under the Act is on water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation), flood control and irrigation facilities. Amendments have been made in para 1 of Schedule-I of the Act to include additional activities under the Act. The two amendments made in this regard are as under:

(i) Para 1(iv) has been substituted by the following

‘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.’

(ii) Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level has been included as a permissible activity in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act vide Notification dated 11.11.2009.

All these activities contribute towards overall development in the rural areas.