

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1899

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010

HIKE IN WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Balam Shri P.;Biju Shri P. K.;Das Shri Ram Sundar;Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Deora Shri Milind Murl;Kumar Shri Shailendra;Patel Shri Bal Kumar;Reddy Shri Komatireddy Raj Gopal;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla;Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Singh Shri Sukhdev;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah;Sudhakaran Shri K.;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Advisory Council has asked the Government to ensure that workers enrolled under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) should get wages as per minimum wages applicable in different States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to link the wages under MGNREGS with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and de-link them from the Minimum Wages Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide wages at par in each State and to expand this Scheme to urban poor areas?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): A note by National Advisory Council on wage payment to workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has been received from PMO and is being examined.

(c)to(e): Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act provides for wage rate under the Act. The relevant provision is as under:

`Notwithstanding anything contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act:

Provided that different rates of wages may be specified for different areas:

Provided further that the wage rate specified from time to time under any such notification shall not be at a rate less than sixty rupees per day`

An Expert Committee has been set up to examine the issue of appropriate indexing of wage rate under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

(f): Section 6(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act provides that different rate of wages may be notified by the Central Government for different areas. Therefore, there is no proposal to provide wages at par in each State. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA applies only in the rural areas of the country and can not be extended to urban poor areas.