

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:496
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011
NEW PROPOSAL ON MGNREGS WAGE
Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is considering a statutory national floor level wage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Central Government is reluctant to bear the additional burden for implementing minimum wages for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme MNREGS workers;
- (d) if so, the reason therefor; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to find out amicable solution in this matter?

Answer

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

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, Central Government is committed to bear the entire expenditure on payment of wages to the unskilled manual workers. In accordance with Section 6(1) of the Act, notwithstanding anything contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (11 of 1948), the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purpose of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Therefore, wage rate as per this section are not linked with Minimum Wages Act. The Government has revised the wages for unskilled manual workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA by indexing the notified wage rate to the Consumer Price Index for agricultural labour with a view to protect the wages against inflation.