

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:621

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011

DISPARITY IN WAGES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun; Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal; Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada; Ponnamm Shri Prabhakar; Shekhar Shri Neeraj; Singh Shri Dushyant; Singh Shri Yashvir; Sule Supriya; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 10 States have continued to pay less than the statutory minimum wage to workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the response of the Central Government thereto;
- (c) whether there are stark differences between the amount of daily wage being paid under MGNREGS among various States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof State-wise and reasons for difference in wages from State to State;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to link Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to the Consumer Prices Index for agricultural labour; and
- (f) if so, the time by when the final decision is likely to be taken by the Central Government in this regard as well as the rationale behind such initiative?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Sir. In 7 States, the revised wage rate under MGNREGA is less than their minimum agricultural wage rate. 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. Central Government has notified the wage rate under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in accordance with Section 6(1) of the Act in respect of all States and Union Territories and has revised the notified wage rate for unskilled manual workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA by indexing the notified wage rate to the CPIAL.

(c) & (d): Proviso to Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides that different rates of wages may be specified for different areas. State-wise revised wage rates notified by the Central Government are given in the Annexure.

(e) & (f): 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. The decision to index the wage rate notified under MGNREGA to the Consumer Price Index for agricultural labour has been taken with a view to protecting the wages against inflation.