

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1310
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011
MONITORING AT STATE LEVEL
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether monitors have been appointed for different States for monitoring the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and other related schemes in the States;
- (b) if so, the findings of such monitors in respect of various States, especially in Punjab;
- (c) the kind of irregularities which have come to the notice of the Government in the implementation of MGNREGS; and
- (d) the steps being taken to plug the loopholes and the details of penal action taken against the guilty?

Answer

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

(a) The Ministry of Rural Development deployed National Level Monitors (NLMs) in various districts of the country during 2010-11 for monitoring the programmes of the Ministry, including Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

(b) The reports of NLMs reveal that the effectiveness of implementation of various rural development programmes vary from State to State and district to district. Even within States and within districts, various programmes are implemented at varying degrees of pace and effectiveness. The findings in respect of Punjab include the following:

i) Maintenance of records under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS was found satisfactory and job cards were found updated in most of the villages. In majority of the villages, the payment of wages is made through banks. Payment of wages was delayed in some villages.

ii) Most of the job seekers are not aware of their rights and entitlements under Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act.

iii) The Self Help Groups formed under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) are not provided necessary support from the Gram Panchayats and only very few have been provided adequate skill up-gradation/training.

iv) Permanent waitlists have been finalized in most of the villages for selection of beneficiaries under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). The quality of construction of IAY houses was reported to be good.

v) In many villages, all eligible BPL persons have not been covered under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). In most of the villages, the pension amount was disbursed in cash. Many beneficiaries have also complained about frequent delays in receipt of pension.

vi) The status of institutional coverage under rural water supply scheme was found satisfactory. Majority of the Schools & Anganwadis have safe drinking water supply facility.

(c) The irregularities in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, which have been brought to the notice of the Government, include the following :

Misappropriation/diversion of funds, forgery of muster rolls/job cards, under-payment/delayed payment of wages, use of machinery more than the permissible limit, engaging contractors, work not provided on demand, job card kept by Sarpanchs etc.

(d) As Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Act is implemented by the State Governments, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned States for taking appropriate action in accordance with law. In complaints of serious nature, the Ministry deputed National Level Monitors to enquire into the complaints. Reports of the NLMs are shared with the concerned State Governments for taking corrective action. A total of 30 First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged in various States. Other steps taken by the Ministry to plug the loopholes in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, include the following:

(i) ICT based MIS has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny which, inter-alia, includes Job cards, Muster rolls, Employment demanded and allocated, Number of days worked, Shelf of works, Funds available/spent and funds released to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action;

- (ii) Payment of wages to Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers through their accounts in Banks/Post Office has been made mandatory to infuse transparency in wage disbursement;
- (iii) Rolling out Biometric based ICT enabled real time transactions of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers to eliminate fake attendance and false payments;
- (iv) Periodic reviews in the quarterly Performance Review Committee Meetings. State specific reviews are also undertaken;
- (v) Independent Monitoring by National Level Monitors and Eminent Citizens;
- (vi) Visit by members of Central Employment Guarantee Council;
- (vii) Meetings of State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.