

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2781
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011
WAGES UNDER MGNREGS
Biju Shri P. K.;Toppo Shri Joseph

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of workers employed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during each of the last three years and current year and the wages provided to them, State-wise and Union Territories-wise;
- (b) whether the wages paid under the scheme in certain States of North East are less than applicable minimum wages;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): The details of total number of households provided employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during each of the last three years and current year and the expenditure on wages paid to them, as reported by the States/Union Territories are given in Annexure.

(b) to (d): The wage rate fixed by the States as on 01.12.2008 for unskilled agriculture labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, was adopted and notified as the wage rate under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). This has formed the basis of all subsequent revision of wage rates as per the settled wage policy under MGNREGA. In accordance with Section 6(1) of the Act, the Government revised the wages in respect of all States and Union Territories under MGNREGA, by indexing the notified wage rate to the Consumer Price Index for agricultural labour (CPIAL). Since, all the states had fixed different minimum wages as on 01.12.2008 depending upon demand and supply of labour, their economic capacity and other state specific variations, the wage rate under MGNREGA vary from State to State. In accordance with the provisions in para 7, 8 and 8A of Schedule I of MGNREG Act, wages are paid according to the out turn of work and schedule of rates fixed by the State Governments for different types of works. All State Governments are required to make wage payment to the workers in accordance with the provisions of MGNREG Act.