

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5840
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
MGNREGS
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to ensure that at least two third of investment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is channeled towards natural resources management;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government is considering to set up a mission structure for intensive support and facilitation for decentralised planning and implementation of the Scheme at the local level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. Creation of durable assets including natural resources management and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor is also an important objective of the Act. The focus of activities under MGNREGA for wage employment is laid down in Schedule - I of the Act as follows:

- (i) water conservation and water harvesting;
- (ii) drought proofing, including afforestation and tree plantation;
- (iii) irrigation canals, including micro and minor irrigation works;
- (iv) provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes or Below Poverty Line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojna of the Government of India or that of small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008.
- (v) renovation of traditional water bodies, including de-silting of tanks;
- (vi) land development;
- (vii) flood control and protection works, including drainage in water logged areas;
- (viii) rural connectivity to provide all-weather access; and
- (ix) construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level and any other works that may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

The utilization of funds under MGNREGA is governed by the MGNREGA Operational Guidelines, National Employment Guarantee Fund Rules 2006, norms and advisories issued from time to time. The Central Government bears the entire expenditure on payment of wages at notified wage rates to unskilled manual workers. The cost of material component of projects including the wages of the skilled and semi-skilled workers taken up under the Scheme shall not exceed forty per cent of the total project costs. 75% of material cost, including wages of skilled and semiskilled workers, is borne by the Central Government. Up to 6% of funds are permitted as administrative expenditure for deployment of dedicated staff for MGNREGA, strengthening of management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal, Information, Communication and Technology infrastructure etc.