

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5841
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
JOB CARD TO EMPLOYMENT SEEKERS
Ajmal Shri Badruddin

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of job cards demanded and provided under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to each State/Union Territory during each of the last three years and current year;
- (b) whether the Government has received complaints from various quarters that the job cards are under the physical possession of Sarpanch and Panchayat functionaries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard so far; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the genuine card-holders get employment under the Scheme?

Answer

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

(a): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides a legal guarantee of wage employment to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work subject to an overall ceiling of 100 days of employment per household in a financial year. Para 1 of Schedule-II of MGNREG Act stipulates that adult members of every household who reside in rural areas and are willing to do unskilled manual work may apply for registration of their household for issuance of a job card to be eligible to apply for work. The registration/job card shall be valid for such period as may be laid in the scheme, but in any case not less than five years and may be renewed from time to time, as per para 3 of Schedule II. Year wise data of job cards demanded is not maintained. Details of the cumulative number of households issued job cards under MGNREGA during the last 3 years and cumulative number of households registered and issued job cards as on 5.9.2011, as reported by States/UTs, are given in Annexure.

(b) to (d): The Ministry has so far received complaints alleging 26 cases of job cards being kept by Sarpanches. As implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action as per law.

(e): Under the MGNREG Act, mere issuance of a job card does not entitle a household to receive employment. Under Para 9 of Schedule II of the Act, the household also has to submit application for work to be entitled to receive employment. Employment is provided on demand and unemployment allowance becomes payable in case an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date on which employment has been sought in case of an advance application, whichever is later. As per Section 3 (1) of the MGNREG Act, it is for the concerned State Government to provide unskilled manual work up to one hundred days in a financial year in accordance with the Scheme notified by the States as per Section 4 of the Act.