

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:338

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011

MGNREGS

Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Pashupati Nath

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently launched an awareness campaign in the electronic/print media for the successful implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the salient features of the awareness campaign;
- (c) whether the number of beneficiaries have increased after the launch of this campaign;
- (d) if so, the extent of increase in each State/U.T. during each of the last three years;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to create more transparency under the Scheme; and
- (f) the number of cases under investigation of CBI during each of the last three years State/U.T.-wise and number of officials charge sheeted/prosecuted so far under the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 338 for answer on 25.08.2011

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Rural Development administers several schemes/ programmes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for rural areas. Information, Education and Communication activities for all the programmes of the Ministry are done in a holistic manner both in electronic and print media out of the budget allocation for each year for generating awareness across the country for effective implementation of these programmes.

(c) & (d): The details of total number of households provided employment under MGNREGA during each of the last three years and current year as reported by the States/Union Territories are given in Annexure. There has been an increase in the number of households provided employment during the last 3 years.

(e): Major steps taken by the Government to create more transparency under the Scheme in the recent past are given below:

(i) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based MIS has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny including job cards, muster rolls, employment demanded and number of days worked, shelf of works, funds available/spent, social audit findings, registering grievances etc.

(ii) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.

(iii) Payment of wages to MGNREGA workers has been made mandatory through their accounts in Banks/Post Office to infuse transparency in wage disbursement.

(iv) State Governments have been advised to make use of ICT enabled models like Business Correspondent, Rural ATM, handheld devices, smart cards, bio-metrics, mobile banking etc., for easy wage payments to MGNREGA workers.

(v) In consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 has been notified on 30th June, 2011.

(f): During the last 3 years in one case an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been ordered in April 2011 into allegations of corruption and misappropriation of funds under MGNREGA in Orissa. CBI has not completed its investigation and has not submitted its report.