

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:561
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011
BOGUS JOB CARDS
Natrajan Meenakshi

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of bogus job cards under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to check this practice;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The Ministry has so far received 272 job cards related complaints under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The details of such complaints related to job cards received in the Ministry as on 10.11.2011 are given in Annexure. 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.

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. It is the duty of the Gram Panchayat to register households after making such enquiry as it deems fit and issue job cards. 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. Steps taken by the Government to check irregularities related to job cards and to improve transparency and efficiency in implementation of MGNREGA include the following:

- (i) All States have been asked to put in place a robust Social Audit mechanism as outlined in the MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011.
- (ii) Permissible administrative expenditure limit was enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for MGNREGA, strengthening management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.