

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:576

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

ACTIVITIES UNDER MGNREGS

Kodikunnil Shri Suresh; Tagore Shri Manicka

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to widen the scope of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide for appointment of Panchayat Development Officer and Junior Engineer in Panchayats having a population of more than 5000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard;
- (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 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. As per Section 18 of the Act, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to make available to the District Programme Coordinator and the Programme Officers necessary staff and technical support as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the Scheme. States/Union Territories have been advised to provide dedicated manpower for select Gram Panchayats (GPs) under administrative expenditure head of MGNREGA and to begin with fill posts of Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) and Junior Engineer (JE) for select Panchayats for a period of 8 years. GPs having population over 5000 are also covered in phase I of this staffing scheme along with other categories of GPs specified. This proposal was based on feedback received from the States and finalized in consultation with the State Governments. National consultation with State Ministers and Secretaries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Departments for discussion on this issue was held on 22.9.2010.