

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:216

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011

PAYMENT OF WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether suggestions have been received from various quarters for payment of wages in cash to workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the demand for employment under MGNREGS has come down;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

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

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 216 for answer on 08.12.2011.

(a): Yes sir.

(b): Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), it is the responsibility of State Governments to make wage payment to beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of the Act. With a view to ensuring timely payment, infusing transparency and enhancing the integrity of wage payment, Schedule II of MGNREG Act had been amended to make wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through institutional accounts in Banks or Post Offices a statutory requirement unless specifically exempted. The Ministry of Rural Development has exempted some districts in different States from this wherever requests for exemption supported by reasonable grounds were made to the Ministry. Recently MGNREGA wage payments through cash in districts as identified for Integrated Action Plan has been permitted subject to certain conditions.

(c): No sir. 4.55 crore households demanded employment under MGNREGA during 2008-09 compared to 5.29 crore households in 2009-10 and 5.58 crore households in 2010-11. There has been a steady increase in the demand for employment under MGNREGA during the last three years.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): To improve the performance and expand the scope of MGNREGA, the following steps have been taken by the Government:

i) Intensive awareness campaigns for dissemination of information regarding MGNREGA are conducted from time to time to strive to bring more and more households participate in MGNREGA.

(ii) For convergence of MGNREGA with other development programmes of the Government which have similar target groups, convergence guidelines have been developed and disseminated by the Ministry for several other development schemes.

(iii) Amendments to para 1 of Schedule I of MGNREG Act have been carried out from time to time to enlarge the scope of works and activities that can be taken up.