

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2374
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011
BONUS UNDER MGNREGS
Singh Smt. Meena

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are paid bonus;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): No sir.

(b) & (c): 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. The objective of MGNREGA is to supplement the income of a rural household and it is not intended to be the sole means of earning livelihood for the rural population. The MGNREG Act also provides for a host of other benefits to the workers which are otherwise not available to agricultural labour under the Minimum Wages Act. These benefits are in the nature of providing employment within radius of 5 Km, in case distance is more than 5 Km, payment of additional 10% of wage rate as extra wages for meeting transportation and living expenses, free medical treatment for injury, expenses of hospitalization if required and payment of daily allowance, payment of ex-gratia in cases of death or permanent disability, provisions for safe drinking water, sheds/crèche for children etc, free medical treatment on injury to any child accompanying workers and ex-gratia payment. Till such time a separate and satisfactory index and mechanism for updation of MGNREGA wages is developed, wage rates under Section 6 (1) of MGNREGA has been indexed to the Consumer Price Index for Agriculture labourers (CPIAL). The MGNREG Act does not have provision for payment of bonus to the workers.