

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:417
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009
WAGES THROUGH BANKS AND POST OFFICES
Maharaj Shri Satpal;Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the prevailing mode and period of payment of wages under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);
- (b) whether some difficulties have been observed in the payment of wages through banks/post offices owing to either lack of branches in rural areas or availability of insufficient funds with them;
- (c) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the concerned Departments to revamp banks/post offices in rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the results thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C. P. JOSHI)

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

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 417 for answer on 31.7.2009.

(a): In accordance with para 31 of Schedule II of NREGA (Amended vide notification dated 19.2.09), payment of wages to NREGA workers is to be made through their accounts in Banks/Post Offices. Workers are entitled to be paid wages on a weekly basis, and in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which work was done.

(b)to(d): Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received in this Ministry from individuals as well as from some States regarding difficulties being faced in the wage payment through accounts in Banks/Post Offices. Complaints received from the individuals have been sent to concerned State Governments for enquiry and appropriate action. Problems raised by the States have been taken up with the Department of Financial Services, Planning Commission and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to resolve the issues concerned. Department of Financial Services has been requested to take action for expanding the outreach of financial services so that wage payment can be made entirely through NREGA worker's accounts. The Ministry is also regularly reviewing the progress in this regard every month with the Department of Posts (DoP). As a result, there has been strengthening of the network of Post Offices.