

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3622
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011
WAGE DAYS UNDER MGNREGS
Abdulrahman Shri ;Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Labour Conference in its 43rd Session recommended to increase the number of working days along with the guaranteed statutory wage under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the wage days under the Scheme;
- (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): Yes sir.
- (b): The recommendation of the Indian Labour Conference was for extending employment guarantee under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from 100 days to 200 days.
- (c): No sir.
- (d): Does not arise.
- (e): The primary objective of 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 workers are free to avail any other employment opportunities available to them. Average person days per household generated under MGNREGA was 48 in 2008-09, 54 in 2009-10 and 47 in 2010-11 and the ceiling of 100 days is yet to be exhausted. Section 3 (4) of the MGNREG Act already contains provisions to the effect that Central Government or State Government may within limits of their economic capacity and development make provisions for securing work to every adult member of a household under a Scheme for any period beyond the period of 100 days guaranteed under Section 3 (1) as may be expedient. MGNREGA intends to provide the social security mechanism for the days which is beyond the period of engagement in agriculture. Any increase in number of days of guaranteed employment will increase a competitive disadvantage towards agricultural productivity.