

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:639

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012

MINIMUM WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Jindal Shri Naveen;Lingam Shri P.;Panda Shri Prabodh;Sharma Shri Jagdish

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the High Courts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have directed the Union Government to pay minimum wages to workers under Minimum Wages Act under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has issued directions to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): In Writ Petition No. 30619/2009 connected with other Writ Petitions filed before the High Court of Karnataka, the petitioners had challenged the constitutional validity of Section 6(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 and issue of notification specifying wage rate, on the ground that it can not be less than the minimum wage rate for unskilled agricultural labourers fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. The High Court of Karnataka vide its Order dated 23.09.2011 accepted their pleas and directed the Central Government to make payment of arrears. A Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 379-390 of 2012 has been filed before the Supreme Court against the aforesaid judgment of the Karnataka High Court. In a Writ Petition on similar issue filed before the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, the Court has reserved its judgement. The matter is thus sub judice.

(c): No sir.

(d): Does not arise.