

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:640

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012

WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of payment to workers wages of below the prescribed rate under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in various States including Rajasthan, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has enquired into the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the erring officials in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): There have been reports about payment of low wages to workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in some States.

(b)to(e): Such a case in Rajasthan was pointed out to the Ministry. This was found to be due to improper maintenance of relevant records. All State Governments are required to make wage payment to the beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of MGNREG Act. In accordance with the provisions in para 7, 8 and 8A of Schedule I of MGNREG Act, wages are to be paid according to the out turn of work and schedule of rates fixed by the State Governments. Para 7 of Schedule I of the MGNREGA provides that when the wages are directly linked with the quantity of work, the wages shall be paid according to the schedule of rates fixed by the State Government for different types of work. Hence wages paid per day in real terms can be lower depending on the actual quantum of work carried out by the workers and measurement recorded. As per Section 18 of the Act, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to make available to the District Programme Coordinator and the Programme Officers necessary staff and technical support as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the Scheme. In such complaints and cases of improper maintenance of records or measurements etc. enquiries are conducted for fixing responsibility for lapses, in any and action is taken against persons found responsible by the concerned State Governments since implementation of MGNREGA is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act.