

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1573

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012

GUIDELINES UNDER MGNREGS

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Patel Shri Kishanbhai
Vestabhai;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a conference on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme was held recently;
- (b) if so, the issues discussed and decisions arrived at in the said conference;
- (c) whether any Committee was constituted to redraft guidelines/norms under the Scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the recommendations made by the said Committee;
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government on these recommendations; and
- (f) the extent to which the Scheme has proved to be beneficial after the implementation of these recommendations?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): On the occasion of completion of six years of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA), 'MGNREGA Sammelan' was organized at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi on February 2, 2012. The Sammelan was to reaffirm commitment of all stakeholders to MGNREGA's goals.

(c) to (e): A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission for suggesting revisions to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Operational Guidelines. The committee has submitted its report. The major recommendations made by the Committee are as below:

- (i) To anchor implementation of MGNREGA, National and State Employment Guarantee Missions and Management Teams should be put in place at National and State level.
- (ii) A network of Capacity Building Institutions should be created at the national level within the National Management Team (NMT) of the Department of Rural Development. On similar pattern, a Capacity Building Division should be set up at the State and District level.
- (iii) Labour Budget should be presented by the Gram Panchayat at a Gram Sabha meeting on 15th of August. The shelf of projects should be adequate to meet demand for work for at least two years.
- (iv) About 30 new works related with watershed, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, works in coastal areas and rural sanitation have been recommended for inclusion in the list of permissible works.
- (v) Cash wage payment should be allowed in those Blocks/GPs where the outreach of the Banks/Post Offices is highly inadequate.
- (vi) MIS should generate the pay order (automatically) for payment of unemployment allowance to such wage seekers whose demand for work is not met within 15 days.
- (vii) A Social Audit Unit (Society or a Directorate independent of the implementing departments/agencies) should be constituted. The C&AG of India, or any person appointed by C&AG, should have the right to conduct audit of the accounts of schemes at such intervals as deemed fit.
- (viii) Three tier vigilance mechanism should be set up at State, District and Local level to detect irregularities in the implementation of the Act.

The provisions in MGNREGA are effected through Schemes to be formulated by States under Section 4(1) of the Act. The Schemes made by the States are required to provide for the minimum features specified in Schedule I of the Act for which guidelines are issued by the Central Government. The copy of the Committee's Report has been forwarded to all States/UTs and has also been placed in public domain for comments/suggestions. Based on the feed back from various Stakeholders including State Governments, changes and modifications to the Schedule and guidelines are carried out from time to time and this is a continuous process.

(f) Does not arise in view of above.