

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:232
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012
ACTIVITIES UNDER MGNREGS
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the focus of activities covered under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are in accordance with the actual requirements at the ground level;
- (b) if not, whether some State Governments have urged the Union Government to include more activities under the Scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review the guidelines of the Scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

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

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 232 for answer on 29.03.2012

(a) to (c): The provisions in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (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. Para 1B of Schedule-I of MGNREGA lists the category of works that any Scheme prepared by a State Government under Section 4 (1) of MGNREG Act shall focus upon. Based on the suggestions and feed back received 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. Addition of the following new activities/works in Schedule - I in consultation with the State Governments for employment generation under MGNREGA have been made recently:

(i) The activities for provision of horticulture, plantation, irrigation and land development facilities included in para 1B (iv) of Schedule - I of the Act have been extended to land owned by small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 (vide notification dated 22.7.2009) and to the beneficiaries under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, (vide notification dated 22.9.2011).

(ii) The following have been notified under para 1B (ix) of Schedule 1

(a) Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level (included vide notification dated 11.11.2009).

(b) Construction of play grounds in districts as identified by the central Government for Integrated Action Plan (included vide notification dated 21.10.2011).

(c) Access to sanitation facilities in convergence with the Total Sanitation Campaign of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (included vide notification dated 30.09.2011).

(d) & (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.