

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2589
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012
ADDITION OF ACTIVITIES UNDER MGNREGS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some Hilly States including Himachal Pradesh have requested for introducing some additional activities under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) including the protection of crops from wild animals and protection of forests from fire;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said provisions will be introduced in the scheme?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (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. Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor is also an important objective of the Act. Schedule-I of the Act lists the category of works in the order of their priority which shall be included in the Schemes to be formulated by the State Governments under Section 4(1) of the Act. Proposals for additional activities like guarding and protection of crops and forests under MGNREGA have been received from some States.

Protection of crops from wild animals or protection of forests from fire, do not lead to creation of durable assets and are therefore neither permissible activities nor related with implementation of the Act. Hence such activities cannot be covered under MGNREGA.