

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2609  
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012  
GRAM PANCHAYATS UNDER MGNREGS  
Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether Gram Panchayats are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether 50 per cent of funds under the scheme are spent directly by the Gram Panchayats; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Section 16(1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides that Gram Panchayats shall be responsible for identification of projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under the scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabhas. Section 13(1) of MGNREGA provides that the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under the Act. Panchayats have been given a pivotal role in the planning and implementation of projects under MGNREGA.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The Act [Section 16(5)] mandates that the Programme Officer shall allot at least 50% of the works in terms of cost to be implemented through Gram Panchayats. As reported by States/UTs, out of total expenditure of Rs.31,369.89 crore incurred during 2010-11, expenditure of Rs.26,211.37 crore (84%) was incurred at Gram Panchayat level and out of total expenditure of Rs.28,148.08 crore incurred during 2011-12 (as on 16.3.2012), expenditure of Rs.22,712.93 crore (81%) was incurred at Gram Panchayat level.