

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2663
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012
MGNREGS IN NAXAL AFFECTED DISTRICTS
Das Shri Khagen

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to revamp Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in naxal affected districts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which revamped guidelines are likely to include more people in developmental activities and be beneficial in naxal affected districts; and
- (d) the role of Panchayats under the scheme in these districts?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The following initiatives have been undertaken for effective implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

(MGNREGA) in Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts affected by left wing extremism:

1. To ensure timely wage payment to the MGNREGA workers, cash wage payments has been allowed in areas where the outreach of Banks/Post Offices is inadequate.
2. To ensure adequate human and technical support to the district and sub-district levels for implementing MGNREGA, the Ministry has suggested that States can deploy core professional staff namely Panchayat Development Officer and Technical Assistant in each Gram Panchayat of the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Districts.
3. Ministry has issued notification allowing construction of play grounds under MGNREGA in these districts.
4. Prime Minister Rural Development Fellows will be appointed in IAP districts for fixed duration to provide managerial support to district administration in the implementation of rural development and other developmental programmes.

(d): Section 16(1) of 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. Further, the Act mandates that 50% of the works in terms of cost will be implemented through Gram Panchayats. Panchayats have been given a pivotal role in the planning and implementation of projects under MGNREGA.