

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:272
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEMES
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a new Employment Guarantee Scheme for the unemployed people in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is not satisfied with the present scheme being implemented to check the problem of unemployment in the country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): No, Madam.

(c) to (e): The Government is implementing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for enhancing the livelihood security of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Since it is a demand based legislation there are no pre-determined targets for employment as well as for utilisation of funds under the Act. The average person days demanded has been around 50 days a year since the inception of MGNREGA. With a view to strengthen the implementation of MGNREGA and to ensure that more and more of the rural population are benefited, the Ministry of Rural Development has undertaken a number of measures:

Awareness generation among rural population has been taken up through intensive IEC activities involving both print as well as electronic media.

ICT based MIS has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny.

Payment of wages to MGNREGA workers has been made mandatory through their accounts in Banks/Post Office to infuse transparency in wage disbursement.

Independent monitoring and verification by National Level Monitors and Eminent Citizens.

Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal in a time bound manner.

The MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 have been notified on 30.6.2011. All States have been asked to put in place a robust social audit mechanism as outlined in these Rules.

Special emphasis has been put on the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts.

MGNREGA wages have been revised and indexed with Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) effectively increasing real wages and partially adjusting for inflation.

In addition, various Ministries/organisations under the Government of India are implementing schemes like Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for addressing the problem of unemployment in the country.