

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:303

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012

WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

Karunakaran Shri P.;Shekhar Shri Neeraj

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has increased the daily wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether different wage rates exist in the States under the Scheme;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to bring uniformity in the daily wages under the Scheme in all the States?

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. 303 for answer on 26.04.2012

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The Government of India has notified revised wage rates under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) vide notification dated 23.03.2012 in respect of all States/Union Territories. The revised rates are effective from 1st April, 2012 and are given in Annexure. The minimum rates of wages fixed by the State Governments as on 01.12.2008 for unskilled agriculture labourers under the Minimum Wages Act 1948 was adopted and notified as the wage rate under Section 6 (1) of MGNREGA in January 2009. To ensure that MGNREGA workers' wages are protected against inflation, MGNREGA wage rates were indexed to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) and revised in January 2011 accordingly. For arriving at MGNREGA wage rates vide the latest notification dated 23rd March, 2012, the percentage increase in the CPI-AL from November, 2010 to December, 2011 has been considered.

(c) to (e): The minimum rates of wages fixed by the States as on 01.12.2008 for unskilled agriculture labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, was adopted and notified as the wage rate under Section 6(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) vide Government of India Notification dated 1st January, 2009. This has formed the basis of all subsequent revision of wage rates as per the settled wage policy under MGNREGA. Since, all the States had fixed different minimum rates of wages as on 01.12.2008 depending upon demand and supply of labour, their economic capacity and other State specific variations, the wage rate under MGNREGA varies from State to State.