

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3591
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
MINIMUM WAGES UNDER MGNREGS
Mishra Shri Govind Prasad

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether wages for workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is fixed by the Union Government, while minimum wages is fixed by the State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the minimum wages being provided by the State Governments under the scheme;
- (d) whether minimum wages in some of the States is lower than the minimum wages at the national level;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Union Government proposes to increase minimum wages under the scheme; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Wage rate for workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is fixed by the Central Government under Section 6(1) of the Act, which states that notwithstanding anything contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act. Minimum wages are fixed by Central or State Governments depending upon the scheduled employment.

(c): 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

(d) to (g): Minimum wages for unskilled agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are fixed by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The wage rate 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 MGNREG Act 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 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.