

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3605
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
MIGRATION OF WORKERS
Mishra Shri Mahabal

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether migration of socially and economically backward people from rural areas to urban areas is taking place despite launching of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to empower them in order to ensure their upliftment and also create employment opportunities near their villages/towns so that they are able to make both ends meet; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to(e): The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. The Act extends to all rural areas in the country. The choice of works suggested in the Act addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion, so that the process of employment generation is maintained on a sustainable basis and durable assets are created in rural areas by strengthening the natural resource base. The MGNREG Act also provides for providing employment within radius of 5 Km and in case distance is more than 5 Km, payment of additional 10% of wage rate as extra wages for meeting transportation and living expenses. States/Union Territories are obliged to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed unskilled wage employment to every rural household in a year if demanded. The provisions under the Act are aimed at addressing problems arising due to distress migration from rural areas. Various studies undertaken by independent Institutions/Organizations like Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, Centre for Science and Environment, National Institute of Rural Development, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, Institute of Social and Economic Change etc. have concluded that implementation of MGNREGA has significantly curbed migration of people from rural areas.