

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:393
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
EMPLOYMENT UNDER MGNREGS
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of the persons who actually received 100 days job and number of the job cards issued during the last one year and the current year under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) the amount of the wages paid to the beneficiaries in cash and through post offices/banks separately during the said period;
- (c) the nature of complaints generally made by the job card holders under the Scheme; and
- (d) the action/steps taken by the Government to address these complaints?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 393 for answer on 03.05.2012

(a) & (b): 38,26,088 households completed 100 days of employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during 2011-12 as reported by States/UTs till 30.4.2012. The cumulative number of job card holders was 12.26 crore as reported on 30.04.2012 and 49.48 lakh job cards were reported as issued in 2011-12. As per the progress report from States/UTs an amount of Rs.20,762.80 crores was disbursed as wages through post offices/banks and an amount of Rs.3,974.81 crore disbursed in cash, in the year 2011-12. The data reported by States/UTs is provisional and data from some States is yet to be fully uploaded. Corresponding figures for current year, i.e. 2012-13 are yet to be reported in Management Information System(MIS).

(c)&(d): The Ministry receives a large number of complaints of all types about implementation of MGNREGA in the country. The complaints mainly relate to cases of job cards not provided, misappropriation of funds, engagement of contractors, forgery of muster roll, manipulation in job cards, under payment of wages, non-payment of wages, corruption and other irregularities, use of machinery, delay in payments etc. All complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action, including investigation, as per law as implementation of MGNREGA is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act. National Level Monitors (NLMs) are also deputed by the Ministry in complaints of serious nature and their reports are analyzed and findings are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking corrective measures. The Ministry has been reminding State Governments about their duty under the Act to have the serious complaints investigated and take necessary action and to ensure that in cases of mis- appropriation and embezzlement of Government funds not only disciplinary action should be taken against the guilty officials but simultaneously criminal prosecution should also be initiated under Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act, besides recovering the amount involved from the persons concerned in accordance with law.

The measures taken to reduce such complaints include the following:

- (i) In consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 have been notified. All States have been asked to put in place a robust Social Audit Mechanism as outlined in these Rules.
- (ii) With a view to ensuring timely payment, infusing transparency and enhancing the integrity of wage payment, Schedule II of MGNREG Act has been amended to make wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through institutional accounts in Banks or Post Offices a statutory requirement unless specifically exempted.
- (iii) To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, it has been decided that State Governments should roll out the Business Correspondent Model to make wage payment through Banks with Bio-metric authentication at village level.
- (iv) Permissible administrative expenditure limit was enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for MGNREGA, strengthening management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure.
- (v) States have been instructed to establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for greater flexibility in management of funds for

MGNREGA.

(vi) ICT based MIS has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny including job cards, muster rolls, employment demanded and number of days worked, shelf of works, funds available/spent, social audit findings, registering grievances etc.

(vii) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.

(viii) The mechanism of State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees is available for monitoring of the scheme.