

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:394
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
ACTIVITIES UNDER MGNREGS
Panda Shri Baijayant

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain new works related with watershed, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, works in coastal areas etc. are proposed to be included in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details of each of the works proposed to be included in MGNREGS;
- (c) whether Government also propose to include weaving and handloom sectors in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to include weaving/handloom sector under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme?

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. 394 for answer on 03.05.2012

(a) & (b): The provisions in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are effected through Schemes to be formulated by States under Section 4(1) of the Act. The Schemes made by the States are required to provide for the minimum features specified in Schedule I of the Act for which guidelines are issued by the Central Government. Para 1B of Schedule-I of MGNREGA lists the category of works that any Scheme prepared by a State Government under Section 4 (1) of MGNREG Act shall focus upon. Based on the suggestions and feed back received from various Stakeholders including State Governments, changes and modifications to the Schedule and guidelines are carried out from time to time and this is a continuous process. Addition of the following new activities/works in Schedule - I under MGNREGA have been made recently:

(i) Provision of horticulture, plantation, irrigation and land development facilities included in para 1B (iv) of Schedule - I of the Act have been extended to land owned by small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 and to the beneficiaries under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.

(ii) The following have been notified under para 1B (ix) of Schedule 1

(a) Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level.

(b) Construction of play grounds in districts as identified by the central Government for Integrated Action Plan.

(c) Access to sanitation facilities in convergence with the Total Sanitation Campaign of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

A Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission for the Revision of MGNREGA Operational Guidelines has suggested inclusion of several new works related with watershed, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, works in coastal areas, rural sanitation and flood management. The suggested new works in these areas are construction of contour trench, contour bund, boulder check, farm bunding, gabion structures, underground dyke, earthen dam, dugout farm ponds, stop dam, springshed development, composting, liquid manures, bio-gas plant, system of rice intensification (for one-time transplantation and weeding after transplantation), poultry shelter, goat shelter, pucca floor, urine tank and fodder trough for cattle and azolla as cattle-feed supplement, fisheries in seasonal water bodies on public land, fish drying yards, artificial reefs, belt vegetation, storm water drains for coastal protection, soak pits, recharge pits (for point recharge), individual household latrines, school toilet units, anganwadi toilets and solid and liquid waste management, repair of flood channels and chaur renovation.

(c) to (e): The primary objective of 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. Weaving and handloom involve skilled labour, whereas MGNREGA is specifically for carrying out unskilled works as per list of works included in Schedule I of the Act. Hence inclusion of weaving and handloom sector under MGNREGA has not been considered.