

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
JOB CARDS UNDER MGNREGS
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of job card holders in the country and number of new job cards issued during the year 2011-12 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), State-wise;
- (b) whether in certain cases, people have shown their reluctance to work on account of non-payment/late payment of wages and fake job card holders;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government including increasing participation of labourers under the Scheme?

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. 398 for answer on 03.05.2012

(a): The details of cumulative number of job cards holders under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as reported up to 30.4.2012 and number of job cards issued during 2011-12 as reported by States/UTs are given in Annexure.

(b) to (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.

Non payment/delayed payment of wages could also be one of the several factors affecting participation of workers under MGNREGA. In order to reduce payment related and other grievances and to increase participation of job card holders under MGNREGA, the following steps have been taken by the Ministry:

(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) 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.

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

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

(viii) In accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Act, the Gram Sabha recommends the projects to be taken up under the State Scheme. Thus participation of job card holders is facilitated.

(ix) In accordance with the provisions in para 3(h) of Schedule I of the Act, when a work is in progress, the workers engaged in that work may select from among themselves not less than five workers on a weekly rotational basis to verify and certify all the bills/vouchers of their worksite at least once a week.