

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4401
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
FUNDS UNDER MGNREGS
Abdulrahman Shri

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether State Governments have been empowered to use funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for forest department to raise nurseries and seedlings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether specific permission has been sought by some State Governments to divert funds under the Scheme for forest department;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has received complaints regarding diversion of funds by State Government under the Scheme for non-essential work like nurseries and other contractual works;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): 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. Raising of nurseries and seedlings by the forest departments for taking up plantation work selected by the Gram Sabha and approved by the concerned Gram Panchayat is an essential activity for afforestation and tree plantation which is a permissible activity under Schedule - I of MGNREGA.

(e): No sir.

(f) & (g): Does not arise.