

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6814
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012
AVAILABILITY OF LABOUR FORCE
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the negative impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) due to which there is non availability of labour force especially in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the methods envisaged by the Government for availability of labour force?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The findings of a study commissioned by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, on `Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Wage Rates, Food Security and Rural Migration in Kerala` through Agro-Economic Research Centre of University of Madras, Chennai, highlighted that there was shortage of agricultural labour after implementation of MGNREGA. The study was conducted in the districts of Kottayam, Thiruvananthapuram, Wayanad, Palakkad and Kasargod. However, these findings are not definite to conclude that shortage of labourers was primarily due to MGNREGA.

(c): Since MGNREGA is demand driven wage employment programme backed by legislation, State Governments are obliged to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household for doing unskilled manual work, if demanded, at any time of the year, as mandated in the Act. The demand and supply of labour for various sectors of the economy depend upon several factors like wage rates, economic prospects, absorption capacity, regional and climatic conditions, demographic profile of the work force etc.