

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:88  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012  
REFORMS UNDER MGNREGS  
Saha Shri Anup Kumar

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of focus areas of employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) whether the Government proposes to effectively implement Management Information System (MIS) under MGNREGS so as to curb the practice of fraudulent transactions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the manner in which Government proposes to exclude the role of middlemen in providing the benefit to the beneficiary directly; and
- (e) the criteria adopted for labour budgeting under the 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. 88 for answer on 16.08.2012

(a): Schedule-I of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as amended from time to time lists the category of works for focus in the Schemes formulated by the State Governments under Section 4(1) of the Act for giving effect to the provisions of the Act. The list of activities included in Schedule -I of the Act is given in Annexure.

(b) & (c): For effective programme management and to meet the disclosure norms as mandated in MGNREGA a Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Management Information System (MIS) has been deployed ([www.mgnrega.gov.in](http://www.mgnrega.gov.in)). The architecture of the MIS is constructed on the requirements of the legal processes mandated by or under the Act. All physical and financial performance data is required to be available in public domain. This infuses transparency in MGNREGA implementation and enables monitoring of implementation gaps and acts as a deterrent on agencies responsible for data entry in MIS from resorting to malpractices. All critical parameters like workers' entitlement data and documents such as registration, job cards, muster rolls, shelf of approved and sanctioned works, works under execution, measurement, employment provided, financial indicators including wage payment etc. are captured in the MIS with checks to validate the data entered and prevent wrong entries. The output of the MIS are available for viewing by the general public.

(d): The steps taken to reduce malpractices and provide benefits to the beneficiary directly include the following:-

(i) Use of information technology to automate processes is being promoted through the use of a Web-based MIS.

(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 accounts in Banks or Post Offices a statutory requirement unless specifically exempted. Payment of wages in cash has been allowed in IAP districts where outreach of Banks/Post Offices is inadequate as an interim arrangement subject to certain conditions.

(iii) 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 out lined in these Rules to enforce greater transparency and accountability.

(e): Section 14 (6) of the Act provides that the District Programme Co-ordinator shall prepare in the month of December every year a labour budget for the next financial year containing the details of anticipated demand for unskilled manual work in the district and the plan for engagement of labourers in the works covered under the Scheme and submit it to the district Panchayat. Section 16(1) of MGNREGA provides that Gram Panchayats shall be responsible for identification of projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under the scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabhas. Section 13(1) of MGNREGA provides that the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under the Act.