

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1944

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012

PAYMENT OF WAGES THROUGH BANKS/POST OFFICES

Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the wages to the workers under various rural development schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are made through Bank/Post Offices;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is paying any commission charges to Post Offices and Bank;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to increase the said commission/charges;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (f) whether the Government provides the facility to open the account in Banks/Post Offices with zero balance basis; and
- (g) if so, the number of accounts opened for the workers on zero balance basis in the Banks/Post Offices during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): With a view to ensuring timely payment, infusing transparency and enhancing the integrity of wage payment, Schedule II of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), has been amended to provide for wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through accounts in Banks or Post Offices. To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, it has been decided that State Governments should roll out the Business Correspondent (BC) Model to make wage payment through Banks with Bio-metric authentication at village level and has permitted a payment of remuneration to BCs up to Rs. 80/- per active account per year.

(c) to (e): Management Information System (MIS) for MGNREGA does not capture data of payments, if any, made by State Governments to Banks/Post Offices as remuneration for operating accounts of MGNREGA workers or to BCs. There has been no demand for increase or decrease the rate of remuneration payable to BCs.

(f): Yes sir.

(g): The details of cumulative number of Bank/Post Office accounts opened for MGNREGA workers as reported by State/UTs in MIS for MGNREGA are given in Annexure.