

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3047
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
PERFORMANCE OF MGNREGS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has termed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as a hurdle in the economic development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): In various reports released by the World Bank periodically, mixed observations have been made about Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in different contexts. In some reports, there have been critical observations about it being a policy barrier hurting economic development, whereas certain other reports have highlighted the significantly higher coverage of MGNREGA compared to previous public works programmes and its 'impressive inclusion' record, adding that MGNREGA can serve as a model for future reforms in other safety net programmes. Observations in such evaluation studies/reports serve as inputs for assessing the programme from time to time. Government sees MGNREGS as having contributed to economic development especially of rural areas.