

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:375
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2012
STUDIES ON MGNREGS
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has curbed distress migration of people from the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any independent studies were undertaken to assess the extent of achievement of the intended objectives of MGNREGS including enhancing the livelihood security of rural households in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 375 for answer on 06.09.2012.

(a)&(b): Migration of workers from rural areas to urban areas is influenced by several factors like education, skills and aspirations of the labour force, alternate employment opportunities in urban areas etc. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides for giving employment within radius of 5 Km and in case distance is more than 5 Km, payment of additional 10% of wage rate as extra wages for meeting transportation and living expenses. The choice of works suggested in the Act addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation, soil erosion, etc. so that the process of employment generation is maintained on a sustainable basis and durable assets are created in rural areas by strengthening the natural resource base. The provisions under the Act are aimed at addressing problems arising due to distress migration from rural areas. Various studies undertaken by independent Institutions/Organizations like Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, Centre for Science and Environment, National Institute of Rural Development, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, Institute of Social and Economic Change etc. have concluded that implementation of MGNREGA has significantly curbed distress migration of people from rural areas.

(c)&(d): Research studies have been conducted in the past on the impact of MGNREGA which indicate that this wage employment programme, which guarantees up to 100 days of wage employment to rural households on demand, has improved water and soil conservation measures, increased cultivable land by enriching waste lands and has led to improved agricultural productivity. MGNREGA has led to major increase in wages of rural workers as well as their improved bargaining power in other sectors. NSSO data reveals unambiguously that the majority of MGNREGA workers are impoverished small and marginal farmers especially in tribal areas. The tightening of the labour market post MGNREGA is a positive indicator from the point of view of poverty alleviation and also signals a pressure for technological advances that raise farm productivity in areas of relative labour shortage. The findings suggest that MGNREGA has enhanced the livelihood security of rural households to a great extent.