

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:65

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012

EXPANSION OF MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the activities being carried out under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) whether the Government proposes to include more activities including construction of Anganwadi Centres and other agricultural work;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the number of Anganwadi Centres likely to be constructed during the current year indicating the total funds earmarked/released for the purpose, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to expand the ambit of the scheme and carry out changes/modifications therein including in naxal affected areas;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the estimated number of workers likely to be benefited thereby?

Answer

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

(a) : The provisions in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are effected through Schemes formulated by States under Section 4(1) of the Act. The Schemes made by the States are required to provide for the minimum features specified in Schedule I of the Act for which guidelines are issued by the Central Government. Schedule-I of MGNREGA as amended from time to time lists the category of works that any Scheme prepared by a State Government under Section 4 (1) of MGNREG Act shall focus upon. The list of activities at present included in Schedule -I of the Act is given in Annexure.

(b): Yes, the Government has decided to include construction of Anganwadi Centres in Schedule I of MGNREGA. With the objective of expanding and deepening the positive synergy between MGNREGA and agriculture, especially in the context of small and marginal farmers, Ministry has permitted new works under MGNREGA relating to NADEP composting, vermi-composting and liquid bio-manures, livestock related works, irrigation command related works (rehabilitation of minors, sub-minors and field channels), etc.

(c): Gram Panchayats in meetings of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabha are to determine the order of priority of works to be taken up under MGNREGA. The MGNREGA is a demand driven programme and no earmarking of funds is made. Hence, no separate funds are released for construction of Anganwadi Centres under MGNREGA. All States can take up works listed in Schedule - I of the Act under existing guidelines.

(d)to(e): Based on the suggestions and feed back received from various stakeholders including State Governments, changes and modifications to the Schedule and guidelines are carried out from time to time and this is a continuous process. Vide notification dated 4.5.2012, Schedule I has been substantially expanded to include a large number of additional activities. This was based on recommendations of a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission for the Revision of MGNREGA Operational Guidelines. The following initiatives have been undertaken for effective implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts affected by left wing extremism:

1. To ensure timely wage payment to the MGNREGA workers, cash wage payments has been allowed in areas where the outreach of Banks/Post Offices is inadequate.
2. To ensure adequate human and technical support to the district and sub-district levels for implementing MGNREGA, the Ministry has suggested that States can deploy core professional staff namely Panchayat Development Officer and Technical Assistant in each Gram Panchayat of the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Districts.
3. Prime Minister Rural Development Fellows have been appointed in IAP districts to provide managerial support to district administration in the implementation of rural development programmes.

(f): The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. MGNREGA is demand driven and hence no targets are set. Provisions of MGNREGA are effected as demand driven schemes, to be prepared and implemented by the State Governments.