

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1784
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009
CONFERENCE ON NREGS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a conference of State Ministers of Rural Development was convened in September, 2009;
- (b) if so, whether all the States participated in the conference;
- (c) if so, the main issues and problems discussed regarding National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) highlighted at the conference; and
- (d) the recommendations made/conclusions arrived at?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Sir.
- (b): Representatives of all the States attended the Conference.
- (c) & (d): The discussions held and recommendations made by the State Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Ministers with regard to NREGS are as follows:
 - # Increase the scope of NREGA activities further by including village sanitation, building houses for IAY beneficiaries.
 - # Wage level under NREGA to be increased.
 - # Cap of 100 days employment under NREGA be removed in view of drought conditions in major part of the country.
 - # Raise administrative cost under NREGA to 10%.
 - # Ensure timely release of payment to NREGA workers. Strengthen postal and banking network for wage payment.
 - # Introduction of Ombudsman for NREGA is a welcome step. But some provisions like low sitting charges for the Ombudsman require rethinking.
 - # Raise penalty for violation of NREGA under Section 25 of the Act.