

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2135

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012

EMPLOYMENT TO MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS UNDER MGNREGS

Annayyagari Shri Sai Prathap;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring in operational guidelines with specific reference to vulnerable groups, including persons with mental illness with regard to job under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the senior citizens are to be considered in the category of vulnerable groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. While providing a strong social safety net for vulnerable groups under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), it is felt that extra efforts need to be made for certain special categories of vulnerable people who hitherto had remained excluded. The plans for these disadvantaged people, including mentally retarded persons, require specific works identified for them. A draft MGNREGA Operational Guidelines has therefore been circulated to all the States on 29.9.2012 inviting suggestions. In the case of persons with mental illness, certain permitted works under MGNREGA has been identified which could be done by such persons depending on whether they are severely mentally challenged or are mildly mentally challenged.

(c)&(d): Senior Citizens above 65 years of age are also amongst the identified vulnerable groups to be treated as a special category. Since they are often marginalized and excluded from labour groups due to their lower out-turn, it has been suggested that exclusive senior citizen groups be formed and special works which require lesser physical effort identified and allotted to these groups.