

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:57

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009

PERFORMANCE OF NREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey/study has been conducted recently to assess the benefits from the National Rural Employment guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to extend the present work offer of 100 working days to 200 working days;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(e) whether the wages to the workers including physically disabled or weaker sections are being paid on task rate under the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the number of people including physically disabled provided employment under this scheme since its inception, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(DR. C.P. JOSHI)

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

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 57 for answer on 23.11.09.

(a) & (b): No, Sir. No study/survey has been conducted recently. However, the Ministry commissioned 5 studies during 2006-07, 6 studies during 2007-08 and 13 studies during 2008-09 to various organisations/professional institutions to conduct appraisal and to assess the impact of NREGA. Main findings of the studies completed are given below:

(i) Increase in Agriculture Minimum Wages as well as wage earned per day and annual income.

(ii) Effective targeting of marginalized groups SC/ST/BPL. 85.3% of the beneficiaries (out of the sample coverage) belong to BPL, of these, 50% belong to Schedule Castes, 44.5 % belong to Other Backward classes.

(iii) NREGA is used as a supplementary income source during non-agricultural seasons.

(iv) Families having more dependence on animal husbandry receive relatively more employment.

(v) Work availability increased post NREGA

(vi) Multiplier effects of NREGA

Improvement in ground water

Improved agricultural productivity

Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong has pointed out that in Meghalaya NREGA has led to livelihood diversification in rural areas.

In addition, National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has taken up a survey on NREGA in 2009-10 in three states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(c)& (d): Yes, Sir. The Ministry received a proposal from Chief Minister of Rajasthan for enhancement of the number of days of guaranteed wage employment under NREGA from 100 to 200 days. Another proposal was received from Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for increasing the number of days of guaranteed employment to 200 days in drought affected areas. Sh. Lalit Kishore

Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) also sent a letter requesting for increasing the number of days of employment in Scheduled Tribe areas.

The proposals have been considered in the Ministry. The average number of employment availed at national level was 43 days in 2006-07, 42 days in 2007-08, 48 days in 2008-09 and 43 days during the current year so far. Further, the primary objective of NREGA is to provide a supplementary wage employment to the rural households on demand. It should operate in a way that other forms of employment opportunities are also available to the people and promote an overall economic development of the country. For drought-affected areas, funds are provided from the CRF/NCCF by the Ministry of Home Affairs for employment generation and other measures. In view of this, it is desirable to continue for the present with the existing guarantee of 100 days of employment as provided under the Act.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. Under NREGA, wages to workers including the physically disabled and weaker sections are paid on task rate basis. Household is the basic unit under NREG Act, 2005. Therefore, data relating to the number of households provided employment is maintained. However, in respect of the physically disabled workers, data is maintained in terms of their numbers. State-wise details for the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (up to October, 09) is given in the Annexure.