

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4101

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT UNDER MGNREGS

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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote women empowerment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the number of women job cards is far less vis-À-vis men under the scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase participation of women under the Scheme;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to launch any training programme for Village Pradhans to increase the quality and other aspects of work done under the Scheme; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b):Yes, Sir. Para(6) of Schedule II of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) stipulates that while providing employment priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least 1/3rd of beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the scheme. Since inception, the women persondays of employment generated, as reported by the States, indicate substantial participation of women, as per details given as under:

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
				(as on 1.3.2013)			
Total Persondays generated (in lakh)	9050.55	14359.22	21632.48	28359.46	25715.24	21634.43	17394.28
Women persondays (In lakh)	3639.60	6114.62	10357.27	13640.49	12274.28	10380.77	9160.54
%age of women persondays	40	43	48	48	48	48	53

(c)&(d): As per the relevant provision of the MGNREG Act, job cards are issued to the rural household. The number of workers registered since inception as reported by the States indicates that 43.62% of such workers in the rural areas are women workers.

(e): To encourage and enhance women participation, guidelines are issued from time to time to the States. Some of the suggestions enunciated in the Act / guidelines to the states for empowerment of women are as under:

- (1) Payment of equal wages for men and women.
- (2) Identify widowed women, deserted women and destitute women, who qualify as a household under the Act, to ensure that they are provided job cards and are given 100 days of work.
- (3) Ensure special works, which require less effort and those that are close to their house are given to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- (4) Conduct time and motion studies to formulate gender, age, level of disability, terrain and climate sensitive Schedule of Rates

(SoRs). Also ensure accurate capturing of work done by women at worksites.

(5) Ensure at least 50% of the worksite supervisors (Mates) at all worksites are women. Priority to be given to women workers who have put in maximum work in the last 3 years or their daughters.

(6) Ensure worksite facilities such as crÄches, drinking water, shade etc are provided. This may also be done through convergence with Women and Child Development Schemes like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

(7) Encourage participation of women groups, including Self Help Groups (SHGs) in awareness generation, capturing of demand, planning, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of works. SHGs can also mentor women mates.

(8) Individual bank/post office accounts must compulsorily be opened in the name of all women MGNREGA workers and their wages directly credited to their account for the number of days worked by them.

(f)&(g): Guidelines have been issued to all State Governments to induct capable Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with proven track records, professional agencies, technical institutes and other institutions, who can conduct MGNREGA training and support, in different states with the active participation of the State level training and Support organizations. The states are allowed expenditure on this account from within 6% administrative expenditure that can be incurred under the scheme.