

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4103

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

BIO METRIC CARDS UNDER MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the bio-metric cards in respect of beneficiaries under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have been issued in various State/UT-wise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) if not, the time by which these cards are likely to be issued to all the beneficiaries in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to install ATM-type machines for the workers of MGNREGS to reduce dependency on Panchayat Officer or Administration;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (g) the names of the States where this Scheme has been introduced and the extent to which the Scheme has been effective in checking fraud and corruption?

Answer

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

(a)to(g) Government is continually striving to improve the efficiency of payments services under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and all new technologies including mobile banking, smart cards, electronic transfer, UID based authentication etc. will be used as their feasibility at the field level gets established. For this purpose the following steps have already been taken:

(i) To ensure timely payment, transparency and enhance the integrity of wage payments, Schedule II of MGNREGA, has been amended to provide for wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through accounts in Banks or Post Offices.

(ii) MGNREGA workers are entitled to open accounts either in Banks or in Post Offices with a zero balance in accounts. MGNREGA Job Card has been accepted as an officially valid document under Know Your Customer (KYC) norms of banks for opening of accounts.

(iii) To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, it has been decided that State Governments should roll out the Business Correspondent (BC) Model to make wage payment through Banks with Bio-metric authentication at village level.

(iv) e-FMS (electronic fund management system) module of MGNREGA MIS (NREGASoft) which leverages CBS (core banking system) of Banks and NEFT/RTGS/ECS platform for crediting the bank accounts of workers is being tried on pilot basis in 4 states viz. Rajasthan, Orissa, Karnataka and Gujarat. 15 more states have opted to initiate e-FMS pilots.

(v) Some State Governments like Andhra Pradesh have introduced Electronic Transfer of Government benefits and other technology based solutions for devising seamless payment processes for wage payments to labourers.

It is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to make wage payment to MGNREGA workers in accordance with the provisions of the Act.