

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5004  
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013  
SOCIAL AUDITING IN MGNREGS  
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are not taking much interest in respect of employment and social security for the labourers working under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding prevalence of social discrimination in MGNREGS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the appropriate steps including social audit of MGNREGS taken or proposed by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Section 16(1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides that Gram Panchayat shall be responsible for identification of projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under the scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas and for executing and supervising such works. Section 13(1) of MGNREGA provides that the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principle authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under the Act. According to the Operational Guidelines issued by the Government, the State Government may consider dovetailing wage payments under MGNREGS with other social security arrangements provided the workers are willing. Such a social security cover shall be purely voluntary. At present MGNREGA workers are covered under the Janashree Bima yojana (JBY) implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) implemented by the Ministry of Labour. RSBY coverage has been extended to all MGNREGA workers/ beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days in the preceding financial year.

(c)&(d): The scheme does not discriminate on the basis of caste etc as every registered household, on demand, has to be provided upto 100 days of employment. All complaints relating to improper implementation of the scheme are forwarded to the State Government for suitable action as prescribed in the provisions of the Act and instructions issued by the Central Government by way of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

(e): Suitable provisions are incorporated under Section-17 of MGNREG Act to conduct regular social audits, by the Gram Sabha, of all projects under the scheme within the gram panchayat and Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 have also been notified. Social Audit is an effective means for ensuring transparency, participation, consultation and accountability under MGNREGA. The process of Social Audit combines people's participation and monitoring with the requirements of the audit discipline. In keeping with the principles of transparency and accountability, instructions have also been issued to the State Governments/UTs for establishment of Ombudsman in all districts, with adequate powers vested in him, for expeditious redressal of grievances regarding implementation of MGNREG Scheme including any complaint regarding discrimination on the basis of gender/caste/religion. There is a comprehensive system of monitoring and review of the implementation of MGNREGA, which inter-alia include Periodic Progress Report, Performance Review Committee, Quarterly Regional Reviews, Area Officers' Scheme, National Level Monitors and Vigilance & Monitoring Committees at the State and District levels. Independent Monitoring and verification by National Level Monitors (NLMs) and Area Officers are also carried out in cases of specific complaints. The findings and reports of such review meetings and visits are shared with the concerned States/UT Governments for follow up action.