

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5974

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013

DELAY IN STARTING PROJECTS

Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of rural projects under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are delayed in spite of funds available with the State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has devised some policy frame-work to ensure that such projects are not delayed and funds so released are appropriately and timely utilised;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether funds under MGNREGS has not been released to various States including Maharashtra;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether requests have been received from these State Governments to release Central share; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): The provisions in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are effected through Schemes formulated by States under Section 4(1) of the Act. The Schemes made by the States are required to provide for the minimum features specified in Schedule I of the Act which lists the category of works that any Scheme prepared by a State Government under Section 4 (1) of MGNREG Act shall focus upon. Schedule I of MGNREGA has been suitably amended to include various new works which would give thrust to activities relating to Agriculture, watershed, Livestock, Fisheries, Rural Drinking Water and works in coastal areas which have scope for creation of durable assets and enhance the livelihood of the rural poor. As per section 16 of MGNREGA, Gram Panchayats in the meetings of Gram Sabha and ward Sabha are to determine the order of priority of the works to be taken up under the MGNREGA. As per Section 13 of MGNREGA, the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under this Act. The Panchayats at the district level shall finalize and approve block-wise shelf of projects to be taken up under a programme under the scheme. Delay in completion of works can be attributed to reasons such as execution of works spanning more than one year, revision of wages and material cost midway of completion of the work, beginning of new works before completion of ongoing work etc. The Central Government has issued 'MGNREGA Operational Guidelines, 2013 (4th Edition) which has discussed in detail every aspect of the implementation of the scheme including 'Strategy to address incomplete works'. Measures suggested to address the issue are:

- (1) Splitting of works into annual work elements with each annual segment given a distinct work identity.
 - (2) Re-estimation of value of project by the District Programme Coordinator (DPC) on a suo-moto basis, post revision of wages and material cost.
 - (3) No sanction to be given for beginning new works in cases where Programme Implementing Agency (PIA) have incomplete works for more than one fiscal year/capping the number of works than can be opened up in any Gram Panchayat (GP) at a given time while there are incomplete works in the same GP.
- (e)to(h): Being a demand driven scheme, funds under MGNREGA are released by the Central Government to States/Districts, as per their requirements which is assessed on the basis of advance projection of labour demand, performance in the implementation of the programme and utilization of funds. Proposals for release of funds are received from the states based on the above criteria. Details of central funds released to the States/UTs during the last two years are given in Annexure.