

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2110  
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013  
HANDICAPPED PERSONS UNDER MGNREGS  
Hooda Shri Deepender Singh

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

- (a) whether differently-abled persons are provided employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the number of differently-abled persons working, their percentage to the total MGNREGS workers and type of projects they are employed in, State/UT-wise during each of the last three years and current year;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has introduced guidelines to ensure that a certain percentage of jobs under MGNREGS will be reserved for differently-abled people;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c) Yes, Madam. The prime objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the poor households in rural areas of the Country. For holistic fulfillment of this objective, special attention is focused upon the vulnerable section of rural society including differently-abled persons. The MGNREGA Operational Guidelines has dedicated a separate chapter entitled 'Strategy for Vulnerable Groups' wherein detailed procedure has been outlined to facilitate differently-abled persons' inclusion in MGNREGA. As reported by the States, the number of differently abled persons who have been provided employment on demand during last three financial years (2010-11 to 2012-13) and the current financial year (2013-14) is indicated in the Annexure.

(d)&(e): Since, MGNREGA is a demand driven programme backed by legislation, there is no earmarking of funds/reservation for any specific category of workers. The MGNREGA Operational Guidelines - 2013 have, however, emphasized the following with a view to create special conditions for active participation of such differently-abled persons under MGNREGA:

- (i) states to identify specific works which can be done by differently-abled persons;
- (ii) differently-abled persons can be grouped together as a fixed group to accomplish the works proposed for them;
- (iii) services of a facilitator/Mate can be utilized to mobilize differently-abled workers for MGNREGA works;
- (iv) works could be opened specifically for the disabled;
- (v) differently abled persons should be given preference for appointment as Mates for MGNREGA works and as workers for providing drinking water, to manage crÄches etc., at the work site.
- (vi) Suitable institutions should be identified for making modified tools/assisted devices for use at worksite;
- (vii) Differently-abled workers to be treated with respect and with due care.