

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2165

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

SPECIAL PACKAGE UNDER MGNREGS

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

(a) whether the Union Government has granted or proposes to grant special package under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Uttarakhand State in view of the recent disaster;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the package is likely to be released;

(c) whether the Union Government has decided to relax MGNREGS norms for natural calamity hit States and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to bear the additional/entire cost of employment in the natural calamity-hit States and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has also decided to release further installments of funds for the Scheme in the remaining part of the fiscal year even if the calamity-hit States do not meet the mandatory condition of utilizing 60 per cent of the total available fund; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): As per Section 3(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) the State Governments shall provide to every household, work not less than one hundred days in accordance with the Scheme to be made under the Act. However, Section 3 (4) has the enabling provision for creating wage employment beyond the stipulated period of 100 days of work per household in a financial year. Section 3 (4) reads, 'The Central Government or the State Government may, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make provisions for securing work to every adult member of a household under a Scheme for any period beyond the period guaranteed under sub-section (1), as may be expedient'. Thus, additional employment beyond the stipulated 100 days and up to 150 days per rural household under MGNREGA was allowed as a special dispensation for the notified drought affected Talukas/Blocks in various States in 2012-13 and notified flood/landslide affected rural areas in Uttarakhand in 2013-14. No other State has been awarded any special dispensation due to any other natural calamity under MGNREGA during 2013-14.

MGNREGA is a demand-driven wage employment programme where funds are released on the basis of agreed to labour demand between the Centre and the States concerned. Further, funds are provided to States under Section 22 of MGNREG Act 2005 for meeting the cost of employment up to 100 days per household in a financial year. As a part of special dispensation and in view of the likelihood of increased demand for employment on public works due to the flood/landslide situation in Uttarakhand the Ministry has decided to provide under MGNREGA, for FY 2013-14, additional financial assistance to Uttarakhand for up to 50 days of employment in notified flood affected Districts/Blocks/Talukas as per the provisions under Section 22 of the Act. As a part of this dispensation, an amount of Rs. 330.0 cr. has been released as central share to State Employment Guarantee Fund, Uttarakhand during 2013-14.

While awarding the special dispensation for Uttarakhand under MGNREGA, the following norms were relaxed for the Financial Year 2013-14:

# The wage-material ratio of 60:40 may be maintained at district level, if the State notifies the district as a whole as flood affected. Else, this 60:40 ratio would be maintained at block level in the notified flood affected Talukas/Blocks.

# Removal of debris from roads/private lands may be carried out as a part of a project for land development and/or rural connectivity or any other permissible activity under MGNREGA.

# In accordance with the provisions contained in Para 12, Schedule I of MGNREGA 2005, the State may use machinery for removal of debris, if the same cannot be carried out manually by engaging unskilled workers.

# Funds would be released to SEG, Uttarakhand during the remaining period of FY 2013-14 without insisting on 60% utilization of Total Available Fund. However, the State would be required to furnish Utilisation Certificate (Provisional) for the expenditure incurred along with the proposal for release of funds.

# Fulfillment of a few other conditions viz. (i) 100% MIS data entry (ii) appointment of Ombudsman (iii) Social Audit and, (iv) complaint

resolution will be relaxed for the notified districts/blocks/talukas, while considering release of central share during the remaining period of FY 2013-14.