

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2197

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

JOB CARDHOLDERS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has recently assessed the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in various States/Union Territories;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) the total number and percentage of job cardholders who have been provided 100 days employment during 2012-13, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the number of job cardholders who have not been provided with employment on demand State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether unemployment allowance has been given to such jobcard holders, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether some job cardholders have claimed/filed cases for not providing employment/employment allowance as guaranteed under the MGNREGs Act; and (g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households, by providing on demand up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every rural household for doing unskilled manual work. Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor is also an important objective of the Act. A few studies commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development on the impact of MGNREGA have highlighted that this programme intervention has led to the improvement in the rural infrastructure and have impacted the rural livelihoods. Some of the major findings of such studies related to impact of MGNREGA works are:

- # Increase in Agriculture wages and enhanced bargaining power of rural poor.
- # Creation of environmental friendly jobs.
- # Reduction in soil erosion and enhancement in soil organic matter
- # Improvement in ground water table, agricultural productivity and cropping intensity.
- # Reduction in water vulnerability index, agriculture vulnerability, livelihood vulnerability index.

(c)&(d): The total number of registered rural households who have demanded employment, number of rural households who have been provided employment and number of households who have been provided employment for 100 days on demand and percentage of such households w.r.t. the number of households demanded employment during 2012-13 as reported by the States/UTs are indicated in the Annexure. However, since the demands for employment during the end of a financial year vis-à-vis employment provided are likely to spill over to the subsequent financial year, there is likelihood of a difference in the data on demand and employment provided as captured in MIS.

(e)to(g): The liability of payment of unemployment allowance is of the State Governments and as per Section 22(2) of MGNREG Act, the State Governments shall meet the cost of unemployment allowance payable under the scheme. The Ministry has time and again instructed the States/UTs to notify the Unemployment Allowance Rules in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (6) of Section 7 of the MGNREG Act. 13 States have since notified the rules and 10 states have initiated action to notify the rules in consultation with the legislative departments of the States. The unemployment allowance payable/due in terms of persondays as reported by the States is indicated in the Annexure. 46 complaints concerning unemployment allowance in various states were received in the Ministry. The States have been advised to deal with these complaints as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and these complaints are closed with the approval of the competent authority in the Ministry, only when a satisfactory Action Taken Report is submitted by them. None of the states have reported to this Ministry regarding any court case being filed by MGNREGA workers on the issue.