

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2275
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013
ASSETS UNDER MGNREGS
M.Thambidurai Dr.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the nature of assets created with the funds of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are large number of complaints regarding non-durability of the assets created;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) 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. Schedule-I of MGNREGA as amended from time to time lists the category of works on which the Schemes formulated by State Governments under Section 4(1) of the Act for giving effect to the provisions of the Act shall focus upon. These primarily include water harvesting and irrigation, flood control and protection, land development, plantation, environmental protection and conservation, sanitation, horticulture, livestock, water and soil conservation works, drought proofing, afforestation, works relating to augmenting natural resource base for improving rural economy, rural connectivity etc.

The Ministry of Rural Development had engaged Institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) and other professional institutions to conduct studies and surveys on the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Some major findings of such studies related to impact of MGNREGA works are:

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

(c)to(e): Ministry receives a large number of complaints about implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country which mainly relate to cases of job cards not provided, misappropriation of funds, engagement of contractors, forgery of muster roll, manipulation in job cards, under payment of wages, non-payment of wages, corruption and other irregularities, use of machinery, delay in payments etc. Since the implementation of the Act is vested with the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned state Governments for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law. The State Governments are required to send Action Taken Reports to the Ministry as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which has been shared with the States/UTs.