

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3208
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
JOB CARD HOLDERS
Kashyap Shri Virender;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of jobcard holders under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is decreasing year after year;
- (b) if so, the number of job card holders decreased during the year 2012-13 in comparison to the year 2011-12;
- (c) whether the Government propose to make changes in the scheme to make it more popular and result-oriented;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): No, Madam. There has been a steady increase in the number of job card holders over the years since inception of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2006-07. The number of job card holders in 2012-13 has increased by 0.25 crores over the number of job card holders of the previous year 2011-12. Para 1 of Schedule-II of MGNREGA stipulates that adult members of every household who reside in rural areas and are willing to do unskilled manual work may apply for registration of their household for issuance of a job card to be eligible to apply for work under MGNREGA. The validity of a job card issued to a household is for five years. However, under the Act, mere issuance of a job card does not entitle a household to receive employment. Under Para 9 of Schedule II of the Act, the household also has to submit application for work to be entitled to receive employment and employment is provided on demand.

(c)to(e): At present there is no proposal to make any changes in the basic feature and provisions of the Act. However, amendment to increase the number of permissible activities included in Schedule-I of the Act have already been notified. Wage rates as notified under MGNREGA have been indexed to the Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) and regularly revised on the basis of the Price movement in the CPI-AL state-wise.

To ensure provisions of the Act are given effect to, Operational Guidelines have been issued from time to time, and last revised with effect from 01.04.2013. The Guidelines give detailed procedures on all aspects of the programme. The Operational Guidelines, inter alia, require the States to:

- # initiate appropriate IEC campaigns including wall writings for wide dissemination of the provisions of the Act;
- # carry out of door-to-door survey to identify needy and eligible households for registration under MGNREGA;
- # expand scope and coverage of the demand registration system to ensure that demand for work under MGNREGA do not go unregistered;
- # organize Rozgar Divas periodically to capture latent demand under the programme and to disseminate awareness about other provisions of the Act;
- # prepare development plans and shelf of projects by adhering to the timelines as defined in the Guidelines; and
- # prepare realistic labour budgets after assessing appropriate quantum and timing of demand for works.