

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:228

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

WAGE DAYS UNDER MGNREGS

Patle Kamla Devi ;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Shanavas Shri M. I.;Venugopal Shri P.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to increase the wage days guaranteed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to enhance the wages under MGNREGS keeping in view the high inflation rate prevailing in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of persons got registered and the number of persons got employment out of them under the MGNREGS during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and UT-wise including Chhattisgarh;
- (f) whether there has been decline in registration rate under the Scheme and if so, the reasons therefor; (g) the mode of payment and the rate of wages under the Scheme, State/UT-wise; (h) whether there has been difficulties in payment of wages due to the limited number of Banks and Post Offices in some States/UTs including Chhattisgarh; and (i) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes Madam, there have been demands from time to time from States for increasing the persondays per household per year from the existing 100 days. The Act has provided for such additional employment within the limits of its economic capacity and development. As such, these requests are allowed in the cases of natural calamities and drought situations after a careful assessment of the requirements and financial implications.

(c)&(d): To ensure that MGNREGA workers wages are protected against inflation, the Central Government has indexed the MGNREGA wage rates with the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). The latest revision of wage rates under MGNREGA with indexation to CPIAL was made vide notification dated 26.02.2013 giving effect to the revised wage rate with effect from 1.4.2013.

(e): The cumulative number of households issued job cards and the number of households provided employment during each of the last 3 years and the current year are indicated in Annexure-I.

(f) MGNREGA is a demand driven scheme and the Job card holders need to apply for unskilled work to be entitled for wage employment under MGNREGA. Hence the actual numbers of beneficiaries depend on the actual demand which varies with seasonal conditions.

(g): Wages are to be paid through institutional accounts in Banks or Post Offices, unless specifically exempted in the case of remote areas where cash payment is allowed. The notified wage rates effective from 1.4.2013 are indicated in Annexure II.

(h)&

(i): There are difficulties in the backward areas with thin spread of financial institutions in securing payment through banks or post offices. In case of Gram Panchayats (GPs) which do not have a branch post office, the matter has been taken up with Department of Posts to permit opening of branches on a franchise model.