

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1328

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013

COVERAGE UNDER MGNREGS

Acharia Shri Basudeb;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) programme has inadequate coverage among the needy, especially in those States with high poverty rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the remedial steps being taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government has reviewed the performances of MGNREGS in the country especially in West Bengal;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to improve the performance of the scheme in various States especially in West Bengal?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) No, Madam. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is implemented throughout the country as a demand-driven wage employment programme. This Ministry has issued guidelines for conduct of RozgarDiwas in every village at least once every month to collect the applications for work. The State/UT-wise number of households demanded and provided employment under the Act during the previous two years and the current year is indicated in Annexure.

(c)to(e) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Rural Development periodically reviews the performances of MGNREGA in all the States/UTs including West Bengal. The latest such review of performances under MGNREGA was conducted through video conference with Principal Secretaries/Secretaries/Commissioners of respective States on 02.12.13. Steps taken by the Ministry to improve the performance of MGNREGA in various States are indicated below:

At least one work should be opened in every Gram Panchayat and kept running continuously.

States/UTs have been asked to operationalize the provision relating to compensation for delayed payment of wages if the payment is not made within 15 days of closure of the Muster Roll.

With a view to ensuring timely payment, infusing transparency and enhancing the integrity of wage payment, Schedule II of MGNREG Act was amended to ensure wage disbursement to MGNREGA workers through institutional accounts in Banks or Post Offices (unless specifically exempted).

To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, State Governments have been instructed to roll out the Business Correspondent Model to make wage payment through Banks with Biometric authentication at GP/village level.

To reduce time required in payment of wages, State Governments have been instructed to roll-out electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS). 18 States have since switched over to e-FMS. Time lines have been fixed for States to switch over to e-FMS by March, 2014.

The Ministry has notified MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Permissible administrative expenditure limit was enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for MGNREGA, strengthening management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure.

ICT based MIS has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny including job cards, muster rolls, employment demanded and number of days worked, shelf of works, funds available / utilised, social audit findings, registration of grievances, etc. Uploading of Photographs of works has been instructed.

Instructions have been issued for affixing photographs to the existing job cards.

States have been instructed to switch to e-Muster Rolls to check instances of tampering and misuse of muster rolls.

Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.

The State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been established for monitoring of the scheme.