

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:399
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014
CHANGES IN MGNREGS
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the works allowed to be undertaken under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) whether the Government has recently made certain changes/proposes to make changes in MGNREGS;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the house.

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 399 due for answer on 20.02.2014.

(a):The category of works allowed to be undertaken under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are defined in Para 4, Schedule I of MGNREG Act, 2005. Details of such permissible works under MGNREGA are at Annexure.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Government have substantially revised the Schedules I and II of the Act and notified them on 3rd January 2014. The major provisions of the revised schedules notified on 3rd January 2014 are:

1.Greater focus on provisions to improve the quality of works and make them more productive to the community and to the beneficiaries.

2.More provisions to promote agricultural growth and thereby boost the rural economy by adding the following works in the approved list:

i.Community Storage facilities for the agricultural produce.

ii.Creation of 'Farmnet' roads that link rural production centres with PMGSY roads,

iii.Works for preparation of organic fertilisers to make available affordable and organic fertilisers in the village itself.

iv.Comprehensive watershed-based treatment of undulating lands to make them productive irrespective of the size of the landholding.

v.Removing restrictions on maintenances of irrigation tanks/canals/drains to keep them in good shape at all times.

3.The list of works has been expanded and classified into 4 categories:

a.Category A: are public assets which have high capacity create employment. At least one work in this category shall be kept running all the time to address the requirement to provide work as per demand.

b.Category B: Works which build the individual assets for rural poor and vulnerable categories.

c.Category C: Works which align with the livelihood plans of women Self Help Groups for sustainable livelihoods.

d.Category D: Works for rural infrastructure including:

i.Construction of houses for the poor

ii.Rural sanitation either independently or in convergence to achieve 'open defecation free' status in all villages. Under this, individual toilets can be taken up at a cost of Rs. 10,000 by any job card holder.

iii. Maintenance of assets created under the Act

iv. Works for disaster preparedness or restoration of public infrastructure after a disaster.

v. Buildings for SHG federations and centres for manufacturing building materials in the villages.

4. Collection of demand at least once a month in every Ward through RozgarDiwas.

5. Non-provision of work as per demand should automatically result in unemployment allowance using IT based systems.

6. Provisions for automatic calculation of compensation for delayed payments @ 0.05% per day of delay beyond the 15th day from the date of closure of muster roll.

7. Greater focus on the provisions for transparency and accountability by:

a. Making the estimates more people-friendly and the data more accessible to general public.

b. Proactive disclosure of various aspects of implementation through website, wall-writing and other means.

c. All material for the works to be procured only by transparent tender process which shall be open for scrutiny.

d. Strengthening the provisions of social audit, along with provisions for follow-up action on the reports.

e. Introduction of concurrent social audit with the active youth in every village.

(d): The various steps taken for effective implementation of the scheme are indicated below:

States/UTs have been asked to operationalize the provision relating to compensation for delayed wage payments as per Para-22, Schedule II of MGNREGA 2005.

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

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).

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

State Governments have been instructed to roll-out electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) to reduce time required in payment of wages.

State Governments have been instructed to rollout the Business Correspondent Model to make wage payment through Banks with Biometric authentication at GP/village level.

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.