

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2497
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
INCREASE IN WAGES UNDER MGNREGS
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to increase rates of wages and other facilities provided to the labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by the said committee;
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government on the above recommendation;
- (d) whether the Supreme Court has delivered its judgment on the issue of minimum wages under the MGNREGS;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has received any proposal from the various states Governments including Kerala regarding the increase in wages under the scheme; and (g) if so, the details thereof and the stepstaken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) to (c): Yes Madam, The Government of India has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. MahendraDev to suggest a proper index for revising MGNREGA wage rates every year by protecting the wages against inflation. The Prof. MahendraDev Committee is yet to submit its report.
- (d) & (e): The Hon'ble Supreme Court is yet to deliver its final judgement on the Special Leave Petition filed by the Central Government challenging the orders of the Hon High Court of Karnataka, in WP No. 30619/2009 striking down the operation of Section 6 (1) of the Act.
- (f) & (g) : Yes Madam, the Government has received suggestions/recommendations from several individuals & organisations, including, National Advisory Council, the Central Employment Guarantee Council, etc., and States/UTs, viz., Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Bihar, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands stating that MGNREGA wages should not be less than the minimum wages notified by the State Governments for unskilled agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Any action on the above is subject to the order by the Supreme Court.