

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2566
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
CURTAILMENT OF POWERS OF GRAM PRADHANS
Punia Shri P.L.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to curtail the powers of Gram Pradhans due to poor performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) No, Madam. Section 16(1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides that Gram Panchayats shall be responsible for identification of projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under the scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabhas. Section 13(1) of MGNREGA provides that the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under the Act. Panchayats have been given a pivotal role in the planning and implementation of projects under MGNREGA. The Act [Section 16(5)] mandates that the Programme Officer shall allot at least 50% of the works in terms of cost to be implemented through Gram Panchayats. However involvement of Gram Panchayats would depend on their capacities, pro-activeness and of extent of autonomy and assertions exercised by them.

(b) Does not arise.