

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3593

ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014

WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that wages are not being paid to the workers in some States under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the details of the amount overdue to workers under the Scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure of opening of accounts in banks and post offices for the beneficiaries under MGNREGS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government for timely payment of wages to the workers under the Scheme?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No Madam. Funds are being released to the States as per the labour budget and the request for funds, after due verification of the performance as per the MIS system. All States have been advised to ensure that wages are paid within 15 days from the date of the closure of the muster. Further, by amending Schedule II of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, any delay beyond 15 days has to be compensated by the State concerned.

(c) & (d): The Government has simplified the procedure of opening of accounts in banks and post offices for the beneficiaries under MGNREGS. Now, NREGA Job Card has been accepted as an officially valid document in relaxation of KYC norms. Advisories have also been issued to State Governments to ensure that bank/post office opens accounts for NREGA workers, who do not have any bank/postal account, within 15 days.

(e): To ensure timely payment wages the Ministry has initiated Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS). All States/ UT Governments have been instructed to credit wages payable under MGNREGA directly into the respective beneficiary accounts using core banking system. e-FMS with Post Offices (sanchaya post) has been attempted to ensure real time fund flow to the workers' Post Office accounts. Besides this, the Ministry has encouraged the use of business correspondent model, smart cards and bio-metrics to ensure that the wages are paid to MGNREGA workers at their door-step.