

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3621
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014
CHANGES IN MGNREGS
Sivasami Shri C.;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides assistance to job card holders under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for the construction of toilets and buildings for women self-help federations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the per unit assistance provided for toilet;
- (c) whether the Government has made significant changes in MGNREGS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Yes Madam. Rural sanitation related works like Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) can be taken by any job card holder under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) either independently or in convergence with schemes of other Government Departments. Construction of buildings for women self-help groups' federations is also permitted under MGNREGA.

(b): MGNREGA component for IHHL taken up in convergence with Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) is Rs. 5,400/-. The maximum contribution for each IHHL is Rs. 10,000/- if it is taken up independently under MGNREGA.

(c) & (d): Yes Madam. Government has substantially revised the Schedule I and II of the Act and notified them on 3rd January 2014.

The major provisions of the revised schedules notified them on 3rd January 2014. The major provisions of the revised schedules 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.