

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2828
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
PASS BOOKS TO NREGS WORKERS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received reports that several branches of various Banks have not issued pass books to the National Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) workers even after several months of opening the accounts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and Bank-wise;
- (c) the reasons for not issuing the pass books; and
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure issuing the pass books alongwith the opening of accounts?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry has received one reference in respect of Chhattisgarh State regarding non-issuance of pass-books to NREGA workers by the State Bank of India, Lakhram in Bilaspur district. It has been stated that only Bank Account number is provided after 5-6 days. Another case of delay in issue of pass books by Post Offices has been reported in Burdwan district of West Bengal. Delay in issuance of pass books by the post offices is due to delay in receiving the pass books in the different branches and sub-post offices from Divisional officers or Headquarters.

(d) : With a view to ensure that all wage payments to NREGA workers are made through bank/post office accounts, the Ministry has convened joint workshop of bankers and programme officers; meeting of bankers and postal officers under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD). Another meeting of bankers was also convened in September,09 under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary(Finance) with a view to resolve the hurdles coming in the way of opening accounts.