

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:54

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015

CHANGES IN MGNREGS

Naik Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make some changes in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) including the provisions relating to labour-material ratio;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its impact on expenditure on material, component and wages;
- (c) whether an expert Committee has recommended proper index for revising wage rates under MGNREGS and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the time by which the decision on the matter is likely to be taken; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of MGNREGS?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 54 for 26.02.2015

(a) & (b): No Madam. Government has already notified changes in the scheme vide Notification dated 21.07.2014, under which at least 60% of the expenditure at the district level shall be on creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities. Further while emphasizing quality, productivity and durability of assets, it has been decided to apply the wage material ratio at the district level for all works taken up by the implementing agencies other than Gram Panchayats.

(c)&(d): The expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. Mahendra Dev has recommended to reset the base wage rate by considering the existing MGNREGA wage rate as in 2014, or the Minimum Wage prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act whichever is higher. The Committee has also recommended adopting Consumer Price Index (Rural) instead of the Consumer Price Index (Agricultural Labour) for indexing the wage rate to inflation. The recommendations are under examination at the Government level.

(e) The major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA are as follows:

Improved planning process in 2,500 most backward Blocks.

Improving quality of assets by better convergence with line departments, measuring the outcomes, better technical supervision and quality monitoring.

To check the corrupt practices, the Social audits are proposed to be strengthened in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011; and by positioning ombudsmen in all districts.

Use of IT solutions like e-muster, eFMS and mobile monitoring system for better monitoring of the works.