

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:153
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014
PAYMENT OF WAGES UNDER MGNREGS
Sangma Shri Purno Agitok

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of job card holders under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the rate at which wages are being paid to them, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether a number of the job cardholders are reportedly not being paid wages timely, and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has allocated and released funds to the State timely, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely payment of wages to the job card holders under the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

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

Statement referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.153 due for Answer on 17.07.2014

(a) The cumulative number of households issued job cards since inception of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is indicated in Annexure-I. The State/ UT specific wage rates, as notified under Section 6(1) of MGNREGA 2005 for the year 2014-15, are at Annexure-II.

(b)&(c) Yes, Madam. The Ministry receives complaints/grievances relating to the delay in payment of wages under MGNREGA in various implementing States. The payment of wages under MGNREGA is delayed beyond the stipulated period of 15 days due to lack of adequate administrative and technical staff, absence of bank/post offices branches, lack of connectivity, etc.

As per available MIS information, State-wise amount of wages paid beyond the stipulated 15 days period during the last three years and the current year are given at Annexure-III.

(d) MGNREGA is a demand driven wage employment programme and no allocation is made under this Act. Central funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of agreed to Labour Budgets and taking into consideration the performance and utilization of available funds. The State/UT-wise details of central release and expenditure under MGNREGA during each of the last three years and current year, are at Annexure-IV.

(e) The Ministry has initiated the following steps to ensure timely payment of wages to the job card holders under MGNREGA:

States have been asked to universalise the operationalisation of electronic Fund Management System to ensure smooth flow of funds from the State to the wage seekers and to eliminate delays in payment of wages.

To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, State Governments have been instructed to roll out the Business Correspondent Model to make wage payment through Banks with Biometric authentication at GP/village level.

Introduction of the system of payment of compensation for delays, under which compensation @ 0.05% per day of delay beyond the fifteenth day since the closure of the muster roll, would be paid to the wage seekers. The States have been advised to ensure compliance with this provision.