

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:154

ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014

AMENDMENT TO MGNREGA

Mullappally Shri Ramachandran;Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions have been received from various quarters for amending the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether more works/activities viz. dairy farming, rural housing, foodgrain godowns, etc. are also likely to be included under the purview of the Act and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve delivery system under MGNREGA?

Answer

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

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

Statement referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.154 due for Answer on 17.07.2014

(a) Yes, Madam. There have been a number of suggestions from various States for including more works in the Schedule of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. These have been examined and the list of works permitted under the Act has been expanded in January 2014.

(b) All the works stated are already included in the list of permissible works.

(c) The major steps taken by the Government to improve delivery system under MGNREGA are as follows:

It has been proposed that at least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

It is proposed that the wage-material ratio for works taken up by agencies other than Gram Panchayats would be counted at the district level to facilitate taking more durable assets.

The associated outcomes of each work would be estimated before taking up the work and the same would be measured after completion of the work – thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.

The quality of the assets is sought to be improved through better planning and closer technical supervision.

States/UTs have been asked to operationalize the provision relating to compensation for delayed wage payments as per Para-29, Schedule II of MGNREGA 2005.

States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social audits of MGNREGS works in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tempering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced.

For smooth fund flow, the electronic Fund Management System

(e-FMS) has been introduced which would also reduce delays in payment of wages.

All States have been requested to appoint Ombudsman at the district level for grievance redressal.

The State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been established for monitoring of the scheme.