

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1178
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014
WAGES UNDER MGNREGS
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh had requested the Union Government in March, 2013 to increase the minimum wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) from Rs. 138 to Rs. 150;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has delivered its judgment in the matter of difference between minimum wages notified by State Governments for unskilled agricultural labourers under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and wages provided under MGNREGS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. The State Government had requested the Ministry to revise the wage rate under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for Himachal Pradesh, equivalent to the minimum wage rate applicable in the State.
- (b) The Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the MGNREG Act, 2005, specifies the MGNREGA wage rates payable to unskilled rural workers in respect of all States/UTs whereas State-specific minimum wage rates for unskilled workers are notified by the States concerned under the Minimum wages Act 1948. The MGNREGA wage rates so fixed by the Central Government are, at present, at Rs. 154/- (for non-Scheduled area) and Rs 193/- (for Schedule area) of Himachal Pradesh.
- (c)&(d) Yes, Madam, The Supreme Court in its order dated 11.07.2014 in SLP No. 379-390/2012 has observed that the wages as prescribed earlier stand modified in respect of all the States including the State of Karnataka as per Central Government notification dated 13.02.2014 and ruled that the impugned order passed by the Karnataka High Court is now effective only up to the period of 31.03.2014.