

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1686

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015

IMPROVEMENT IN MGNREGA

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has advised States to organize Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers into labour groups to improve the quality of work to be undertaken under the scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the various State Governments to these advises;
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken to bring qualitative improvement in the work under the MGNREGS; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of workers under MGNREGS along with the payment of wages to them in time?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a)to(c): Yes, Madam. In the first phase, State Governments have been requested to undertake labour group formation in 2500 Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise Blocks. The process of formation of groups is advised to be completed by October 2015 and the same would be monitored monthly by States.

(d): The major steps taken by the Government to bring qualitative improvement in the work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are given in Annexure.

(e): Welfare measures under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are elaborated in Paragraphs 25 to 28, Schedule II of MGNREGA, 2005. The details of such welfare measures for the workers at work places are:

(i) provision of facilities at the worksite viz. safe drinking water, shade for children and periods of rest, first-aid box with adequate emergency material for treatment of minor injuries and other health hazards connected with the work being performed at the worksite.

(ii) provision of child care services at any worksite if the number of children below the age of five years accompanying the women working is five or more.

(iii) free medical treatment to a person in case of personal injury arising out of and in course of his/ her employment.

(iv) hospitalisation of the injured worker including accommodation, treatment, medicines and payment of daily allowance which should not be less than half of the wage rate.

(v) ex-gratia as per entitlements under Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana or as may be notified by Central Government to a person if he/she while employed under the Scheme meets with death or becomes permanently disabled.

(vi) free medical facility/ ex-gratia to an injured child accompanying a person who is employed under the Scheme.

In order to ensure timely payment wages, Rules have been issued for timely payment of wages under which, it was suggested that clear accountability shall be fixed on the functionaries for timely performance of specific duties leading to payment of wages. All cases of delayed payment attracts a compensation @ 0.05% per day of delay, which is automatically calculated and paid by the State Government, to be recovered later from the functionary concerned. The Ministry has also initiated Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) which directly and electronically credits the respective beneficiary accounts using the core banking system.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1686 dated 05.03.2015

An Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE) has been launched in 95,000 Gram Panchayats in 2,500 most backward Blocks. This exercise has helped in identifying better quality assets.

For improving convergence with the line departments, and thereby to improve the quality of assets, the State Convergence Plans

have been formulated.

The associated outcomes of each work are being recorded before taking up the work, and the same is being measured after completion of the work-thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.

The States/UTs have been asked to deploy State Quality Monitors to inspect the quality of assets created under the Scheme.

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. In order to support the States to conduct the Social Audits as laid down under the Rules, it has been decided to provide technical assistance of Rs.147 crore under a special Project that will be in operation till 2017. Under this, the cost of engaging social audit resource persons at the State and District Levels will be reimbursed to the States/UTs.

Ministry would conduct training of Technical Resource Persons from the States/UTs on different technical aspects of type of works which can be taken up under the scheme.

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 Ministry has established a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for MGNREGA, which, inter alia, include visits of Area Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors and Vigilance & Monitoring Committee meetings at the State/ District levels.

To facilitate states to engage technical assistants/barefoot engineers for better technical planning and supervision of works under MGNREGA, guidelines have been issued to allow their establishment cost as a part of material cost of works instead of administrative cost.

Mobile Monitoring Systems has been introduced in 35000 GPs to empower GPs and implementation agencies with live data from the worksites and allow an online and real-time updation of database for complete transparency.