

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1706  
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015  
WAGE RATES UNDER MGNREGS  
Maurya Shri Keshav Prasad;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to suggest methodology for revision of wage rates under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and to provide other facilities to the labourers under MGNREGS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by the said Committee;
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government on the above recommendations; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to give minimum wages to the labourers working under the MGNREGS equivalent to the minimum wages for unskilled agricultural labourers fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): An expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. Mahendra Dev was constituted by the Government to suggest the methodology for resetting the base rate and for suggesting a proper index for revising Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wage rates yearly. The Committee has recommended to adopt - the existing MGNREGA wage rate as in 2014, or the Minimum Wage prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act whichever is higher - as the base wage rate for 2014. The Committee has also recommended adopting Consumer Price Index (Rural) for indexation of the wages instead of the Consumer Price Index (Agricultural Labour). The recommendations of the Committee are under examination at the Government level.

(d): No, Madam. Wage rates for workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 are fixed by the Central Government under Section 6(1) of the Act.