

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1719

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015

IRREGULARITIES UNDER MGNREGS

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

- (a) whether large number of irregularities/corruption cases including fake attendance in muster rolls/job cards, diversion of funds embezzlement of funds, less/non-payment of wages, etc. under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the category-wise details thereof indicating the nature of irregularities during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard and to check recurrence of such irregularities/corruption cases;
- (d) the details of the estimated amount involved in these irregularities/corruption cases, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed the completed, ongoing/pending projects under MGNREGS, if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (f) the details of the provisions made to implement MGNREGS in SC/ST and naxal affected areas?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(d): The Ministry, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), has received complaints regarding irregularities/corruption including fake attendance in muster rolls/job cards, diversion of funds, less/non-payment of wages etc. State/UT-wise details of the number and nature of complaints under MGNREGA as on 30.06.2014 are at Annexure-I. Since the responsibility of implementation of MGNREGA is vested with the State Governments, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned state Governments for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law. Detailed instructions by way of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with complaints have also been issued to all States/UTs. Further, the amount involved cannot be estimated based on the complaints.

The major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme delivery and to rectify the irregularities in the implementation of MGNREGA are as follows:

# 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.

# 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 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.

(e): The performance of MGNREGA in all States is regularly reviewed in the Performance Review Committee meetings, Labour Budget meetings and regional review meetings. State specific reviews are also undertaken from time to time. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council, National Level Monitors and Eminent Citizens also visit various districts to oversee the performance of MGNREGA. During these reviews, the implementation aspects that need strengthening are identified including improvement in the quality of assets and improvement in the overall monitoring of schemes.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has succeeded in creating several community and individual assets such as bringing fallow lands into cultivation, creating irrigation sources or renovating the existing sources, developing horticulture and afforestation, formation of rural roads etc. State/UT-wise details of work category-wise expenditure under MGNREGA during the current year are given in Annexure-II.

(f): Nearly 40% of the persondays generated under the MGNREGS has been for SCs and STs. There is therefore high participation of the SCs/STs in the MGNREGS works programme. Further, the following steps have been taken to improve the programme implementation in the SC/ST and naxal affected areas:

# All the backward areas including the naxal affected areas have been included in the Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise, under which productive assets have been identified with intensive public participation.

# All title holders (most of whom are STs) under Forest Rights Act, 2006 have been given additional 50 days work per year.

# Cluster Facilitation Teams have been positioned using the SHG federations/Civil Society Organisations in 250 most backward Blocks.

# The youth from the worker households would be trained to become Barefoot Engineers to improve the quality of the works programme.