

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2747

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any schemes/programmes to provide employment opportunities in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the funds allocated/spent and the number of beneficiaries during the last three years, scheme-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the decline in growth of average daily rural wage rate;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has assessed the reason for this decline, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/ under consideration of the Government to improve livelihood opportunities in rural areas?

Answer

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

(a): Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as a major employment generation programme in rural areas of the country. The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Besides, the Ministry is implementing a placement linked skill development programme called Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY) under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) for skilling of unemployed youth to improve their employability.

(b): MGNREGA is a demand driven wage employment programme. Central funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of agreed to Labour Budgets and taking into consideration the performance and the pace of utilization of available funds. The total amount released and utilised by the States/UTs under Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during the last three years and the current year is indicated in Annexure -I.

State/UT-wise details of households provided employment as demanded by job card holders under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during the last three years and the current year are indicated in the Annexure-I.

State/UT-wise details of funds released for implementation of training projects under DDU-GKY and details of beneficiaries are at Annexure II & III respectively.

(c)&(d): The fixation of wage rate under MGNREGA is presently linked to indexation with the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour and there has been no dip in the MGNREGA wage rates for any State so far since the inception of MGNREGA.

(e): To generate awareness about the provisions of the scheme and to provide adequate employment opportunities to rural households under MGNREGA, the States/UTs have been requested for the following:

- # Initiate appropriate IEC campaigns including wall paintings for wide dissemination of the provisions of the Act.
- # Expand scope and coverage of demand registration system to ensure that demand for work under MGNREGA do not go unregistered.
- # Organize 'Rozgar Diwas' periodically to capture latent demand under the programme and to disseminate awareness about the provisions of the Act.
- # Formulation of a specific plan to include special categories of vulnerable people viz. persons with disabilities, primitive tribal groups, nomadic tribal groups, de-notified tribes etc.
- # Adoption of appropriate programme flexibility to ensure reaching of benefits of MGNREGA to the primitive tribal groups, de-notified tribes and nomadic tribes.
- # Organisation of workers into labour groups to ensure powerful demand-side pulls for improving performance of MGNREGA.