

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1717

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015

OUTLAY FOR MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the outlay under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has remained constant during the last three years and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether MGNREGS is facing shortage of funds and there has been delay in release of funds to States which is adversely affecting the proper implementation of the scheme;
- (c) if so, the State/UT-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the percentage of cases where delay in payment of wages to workers under the Scheme has been reported along with the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to dilute/limit the scope of MGNREGS, and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): No Madam. The budget outlay for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has increased from Rs. 30,287 Cr in 2012-13 to Rs. 33,000 Cr in 2014-15.

(b) & (c) MGNREGA is a demand driven wage employment programme and the 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. There has however, been some delay in release of funds in 2014-15 due to the delayed passing of full Budget in 2014-15. However this was not a normal occurrence and it is not expected to repeat. Steps have also been taken to implement the electronic Fund Management System that would smoothen the fund flow for implementation.

The State/UT-wise details of central release and expenditure under MGNREGA during the last three years and the current year under MGNREGA are at Annexure-I.

(d): 71% of the total payments in 2014-15 were delayed beyond the stipulated fifteen days due to the following reasons:

Delay in passing of the full Budget till July 2014 resulted in shortage of funds in peak working season of April-July 2014, which accounted for nearly half of the labour budget.

Delays have occurred in transfer of funds from State Consolidated Fund to State Employment Guarantee Fund (SEGF) / Implementing Agencies.

In some States, the implementation issues which include delays in measurement, inadequate staff, poor spread of banking infrastructure etc were not resolved.

The State/UT-wise details of the delayed payments is at Annexure-II.

(e): No, Madam.