

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2191
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES BY GRAM PANCHAYATS
Kulaste Shri Faggan Singh

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether employment and rural development programmes are being implemented in all the Gram Panchayats across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the schemes under which the labourers who are getting employment through these programmes are paid their wages;
- (c) whether the wages are paid to the labourers through banks and post offices;
- (d) if so, whether the labourers working in Gram Panchayats of rural areas have to travel about 30-40 kilometers to receive their wages; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees at least 100 days of wage-employment to the rural poor in India. MGNREGA is a demand-driven, wage employment programme for unskilled works, backed by legislation. State Governments are obliged to provide at least up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year upon demand to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, at any time of the year, as mandated in the Act. The Act extends to all rural areas in the country. Under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), labourers are also getting employment. However, the IWMP scheme is not implemented in all the Gram Panchayats across the country as it is a site specific programme. The project areas are selected based on certain criterion which inter-alia include the extent of areas under rain-fed agriculture, ground water status, degraded land, productivity potential of the land, poverty index, percentage of SC/ST population, percentage of small and marginal farmers, etc.

(b) Under MGNREGA, wages are paid to unskilled rural workers who volunteer to do unskilled work as defined in Para 4(1) Schedule I of MGNREGA, 2005. The Central Government specifies the wage rates payable to unskilled rural workers in respect of all States/UTs in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 6 of MGNREGA, 2005. Wage rates for workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 are notified and revised annually by the Central government in accordance with the provisions of Section 6(1) of the Act.

(c) As prescribed under para 30 of Schedule II of MGNREGA, 2005 that the wages are to be paid, unless so exempted by the Central Government, through the individual savings accounts of the workers in the relevant Banks or Post Offices. The wages under IWMP are paid through banks and post offices and some states, the wages are also paid in cash.

(d)&(e) None of the States/UTs which are implementing the MGNREGA, has reported that the labours working in GPs of rural areas have to travel about 30-40 kms to receive their wages. However, the Ministry of Rural Development has initiated the following steps to ensure timely payment of wages to MGNREGA workers:

(i) All the States/UTs have been requested to universalise the operationalisation of electronic Fund Management System to ensure smooth flow of funds from the State to the wage seekers and to eliminate delays in payment of wages.

(ii) To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, all the State Governments /UTs have been requested to roll out the Business Correspondent Model to make wage payment through Banks with Biometric authentication at GP/village level.