

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:648

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015

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 diversion of funds, embezelement of funds, less/non-payment of wages lack of transparency etc. under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gurantee 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; and funds released and utilized under the Scheme during the said period State and UT-wise;

(d) whether the social audits by Gram Panchayats are being undertaken as per the prescribed procedure and if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of major initiatives major undertaken by the Government for effective implementation of MGNREGS?

Answer

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

(a) to(c): The Ministry, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) receives complaints of irregularities including diversion of funds, embezzlement of funds, less/non-payment of wages, lack of transparency etc. in many State/UTs. 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. The State and UT-wise details of complaints is at Annexure-I.

In order to ensure that such instances are detected promptly and proactively, the Social Audit process and the institution of Ombudsmen have been prescribed. The effectiveness of these interventions is varying from State to State. The Ministry is actively involved with the States in improving the effectiveness of delivery of these interventions. In order to strengthen the social audits, a scheme for identifying, training and funding the resource persons for Social Audits has been approved by the Ministry. This scheme is currently under implementation. State/UT-wise details of fund released and expenditure incurred during the last three years and current year are at Annexure-II.

(d): Except in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Sikkim and Chhattisgarh, the social audits reportedly conducted have not met the standards laid down in the Audit of Scheme rules 2011. Efforts are going to train and reorient the States in order to conduct the Social audits productively. State/UT-wise details on status of outcome of social audits as furnished by them are given in the Annexure -III.

(e): The major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are given in the Annexure-IV.