

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4132  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2014  
WAGES UNDER MGNREGS  
Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has recently ruled that the minimum wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) should not be less than the minimum wages prescribed for unskilled agricultural labourers under Minimum Wages Act, 1948;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has to pay arrears in respect of States/UTs where wage rates under MGNREGS was less than the minimum wages prescribed for unskilled agricultural labourers under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 as per the above orders of Supreme Court;
- (d) if so, the details of States/UTs in respect of which arrears are to be paid indicating the period of arrears;
- (e) the total estimated amount of expenditure to be incurred as arrears and budgetary provisions made for the purpose indicating the source thereof and the time by which the arrears are likely to be paid to workers; and
- (f) the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) to (f) The Supreme Court, while disposing off SLP No. 379-390/2012 filed by the Central Government challenging the order of the High Court of Karnataka for payment of wages as per the Minimum Wages fixed by the State Government of Karnataka, has allowed the Government to act in terms of their notification dated 13.2.2014 that notified revised wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with effect from 01.04.2014. The matter has been referred to the Ministry of Law seeking legal advice in the matter.