

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1931
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014
ACCOUNTS OF WORKERS IN POST OFFICES
Tharoor Dr. Shashi

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of accounts of workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in various Post Offices in the country including the total amount deposited, withdrawn and balance amount for the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether there is a delay in crediting amount into bank accounts of Head Postmasters (HPO) resulting in delays in payment of wages;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has strengthened the monitoring mechanism to ensure timely flow of funds to the labourers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a): The year-wise & State/UT-wise, number of Post Office accounts (cumulative) and the corresponding amount of MGNREGA wages disbursed through these accounts during the year 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 (till date) as per MIS are given at Annexure-I. Further, the Ministry monitors only the crediting of wages into accounts of MGNREGA workers. Subsequent transactions in the savings accounts are beyond the domain of the Ministry.

(b) & (c): As and when Fund Transfer Order (FTO) is generated by the Programme Officer at Block level, required funds are transferred into the Bank account of the Head Post Office. The delay in crediting this money into the accounts of the wage seekers is monitored.

(d) & (e): The Government has focused its attention on improving the delivery system in respect of payment of wages. Wage disbursement through banks/ post office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to MGNREGA workers. Electronic Fund Management System has been introduced in this regard to curb delay and check pilferage. Besides, Business Correspondent model based on biometric/handheld device, cash payment in difficult areas etc. have also been adopted to strengthen the monitoring mechanism to ensure timely flow of funds to the workers under MGNREGA. The Ministry has issued Guidelines on compensation for delayed wage payments to the States/UTs which implement MGNREGA.