

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1942

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014

WAGE DAYS UNDER MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to downsize some of the social sector schemes including the rural job guarantee programme;
- (b) if so, whether law provided for maximum of 100 days of work for a household at a wage rate prescribed by the Union Government under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government has reduced the number of days from 100 days in a year;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to review the implementation of MGNREGS and make it more result oriented;
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to improve implementation of MGNREGS;
- (g) whether planting of trees all over the country has been proposed under the said scheme and if so, the time by when it is likely to be implemented; and
- (h) the names of roads on the sidelines of which trees are likely to be planted?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Yes, Madam. The primary objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of rural households by providing up to at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e) & (f): As a part of effective implementation and monitoring, the performance under MGNREGA, is periodically reviewed. The major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA are as follows:

At least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

The wage-material ratio for works taken up by agencies other than Gram Panchayats would be counted at the district level to facilitate taking more durable assets.

The associated outcomes of each work would be estimated before taking up the work and the same would be measured after completion of the work—thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.

The quality of the assets is sought to be improved through better planning and closer technical supervision.

States/UTs have been asked to operationalize the provision relating to compensation for delayed wage payments as per Para-29, Schedule II of MGNREGA 2005.

States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social audits of MGNREGS works in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tempering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced.

For smooth fund flow, the electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) has been introduced which would also reduce delays in payment of wages.

All States have been requested to appoint Ombudsman at the district level for grievance redressal.

The Ministry has established a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for MGNREGA, which, inter alia, include visits of Area Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors and Vigilance & Monitoring Committee meetings at the State/ District levels.

To facilitate states to engage technical assistants/barefoot engineers for better technical planning and supervision of works under MGNREGA, guidelines have been issued to allow their establishment cost as a part of material cost of works instead of administrative cost.

Formulation of State Convergence Plan in 21 States.

(g) & (h): Vide letter No.11017/17/2008-NREGA(UN) (Pt-II) dated 31.7.2014 a plan of action for road-side plantations on all PMGSY roads and other highways has been communicated to the States. Under this, the road side plantations on National Highways shall be implemented in convergence with NHAI, where material component of estimate would be contributed by NHAI. In the year 2014-15, 38.65 lakh trees have been planted under this programme and 1.90 Crore trees are planned in 2015.