

>

Title: Need to enhance the minimum wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a novel idea to emancipate and empower the rural unemployed and unorganized poor people. A good number of them under the MNREGA are women from the BPL families. Their contribution towards building rural infrastructure, agricultural sector and also their participation in the primary sector are highly appreciable. But the wages paid to the MNREGA workers at present are too meagre to meet both ends even for a single individual. In these circumstances, I urge upon the Government of India to enhance the minimum wages of the MNREGA workers at least to the tune of Rs. 250/- per day, connect it with the consumer price index and also to extend the benefits of provident fund, gratuity, insurance, bonus and maternity benefits to them immediately. I also urge upon the centre as well as concerned State Governments to make the working hours flexible for these workers according to the regional weather and climatic conditions.