

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2479**  
ANSWERED ON 09.03.2021

IRREGULARITIES UNDER MGNREGS IN PUNJAB

2479. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has instituted any enquiry into the irregularities and frauds committed by Punjab Government officials in defraying Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds;
- (b) if so, whether any report has been submitted in this regard;
- (c) whether any chargesheet has been prepared for alleged siphoning of crores of funds under fake names and identities by officials and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the action initiated by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to file criminal charges against all those involved in this scam and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**  
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (f): Yes, Madam. Complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned States/Union Territories (UTs) for taking appropriate action including investigation. In some cases, Central Team, special National Monitors are also sent for investigation into the matter. Steps have been taken to strengthen transparency and accountability which include geo-tagging of assets, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), National electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS), Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS), Software for Estimate Calculation using Rural rates for Employment (SECURE) and establishment of independent social audit units and appointment of Ombudspersons in the States/UTs. Also State/UT specific reviews are undertaken from time to time.

On receipt of a complaint related to State Government of Punjab, a Central Team under the leadership of senior officer has been deputed for investigation of the complaint. A detailed enquiry report was sent to the State for Action Taken Report (ATR). On recommendation of enquiry Committee, State Government has taken several steps such as recovery from responsible officers as well as disciplinary action. First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged against Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) by District administration. In this regard, details are given at **Annexure**.

In another complaint related to State of Punjab, NLM team was sent twice, but no significant irregularities were found.

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**Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2479 dated 09.03.2021**

S. No.	Concerned Districts	Enquiry committee report	Recoveries/ Irregularities reported by Enquiry committee	Recoveries and action taken	Pending recovery amount and action to be taken	Disciplinary action taken	Criminal action proposed
1	Faridkot	Enquiry committee headed by Special Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayats have found following officials/employees responsible for irregularities: 1. Block Development and Panchayats officer, Block Faridkot 2. Assistant Programme officer, Block Faridkot 3. Technical Assistant 4. Gram Rozgar Sahayak	Rs. 11 lacs	Rs. 11 lacs have been recovered	Nil	<b>Disciplinary action</b> have been take against two BDPOs. Two yearly increments in of salary of APO, 3 Technical assistants and 2 GRSSs have been stopped.	NA
2	Sri Mukatsar Sahib	ADC(d), Bathinda was deputed enquiry officer. Following officials/employees responsible for irregularities: 1. Assistant Programme officer, Block Gidderbaha 2. Gram Rozgar Sahayak	Rs. 31 lacs	Rs. 31 lacs have been recovered	Nil	NA	FIR has been lodged against GRS by District administration.
3	Faridkot	4 members committee was formed comprising: 1. Joint Director, Rural Development and Panchayats 2. Executive Engineer, Mandi Board, Faridkot 3. Sub divisional Magistrate, Faridkot 4. IT Manager, NREGA, Faridkot As per report of committee disciplinary action was taken against Gram Rozgar Sahaya, GP Pakhi Kalan.	Rs. 4333/-	Rs. 4333/- have been recovered and	Nil	Gram Rozgar Sahaya, GP Pakhi Kalan has been terminated from Job after disciplinary action.	NA
4	Sri Mukatsar Sahib	As per enquiry report recoveries were made from below mentioned employees involved in irregularities: 1. Assistant Programme officer, Block Gidderbaha 2. Technical Assistant, GP Gurusar and Chak Giljewala 3. Gram Rozgar Sahayak, GP Gurusar 4. Gram Rozgar Sahayat, GP Giljewala	Rs. 1.74 lacs	Rs. 1.74 lacs have been recovered	NIL	Show cause notices have been issued to APO, TAs and GRSSs.	NA