

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 02.03.2010
ANSWERED ON
ADVERSE IMPACT OF MGNREGA .

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Shri Om Prakash Mathur

Will the Minister of COAL HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government is aware that the ill effects of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have started showing as the figures of agricultural child labourers in rural areas of Rajasthan have suddenly increased over past some time;

(b) whether Government has any plan to counter the adverse impact on agriculture produce, brought on by severe shortage of farm labourers due to MGNREGA; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a): The objective of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of rural households by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every rural household in every financial year whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The workers may avail any other employment opportunities (farming or non-farming) available to them. Thus, the aim of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is to supplement the income of rural households and is not the only means of earning livelihood for the rural population. Studies have been conducted by various institutions to assess the impact of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in rural areas. None of the studies has revealed any adverse effect of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA on agricultural produce due to shortage of labour arising after inception of the Act.

(b) & (c): Do not arise in view of (a) above.