

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 116
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2015

PERFORMANCE OF MGNREGA

116. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the number of households that got legally guaranteed 100 days work fell from 51.73 lakh during 2012-13 to 46.73 lakh during 2013-14 and further dipped to 23.24 lakh during 2014-15;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that wages are being delayed and the workers are not showing interest in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA); and
- (d) if so, how Government is going to implement the scheme in its spirit?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Since the MGNREGA is a demand driven programme and the demand for unskilled work itself is influenced by various factors such as rain-fall pattern, availability of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA and prevailing unskilled wage rates.

(c)& (d): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a demand driven wage employment programme. Funds for programme implementation including payment of wages are released to the States after verifying the performance, utilisation of funds released, and as per the agreed to Labour Budget.

The Government is actively engaged with State Governments in establishing systems that ensure provision of work as per demand, transparency and accountability. To generate awareness about the provisions of the Scheme and to provide adequate employment opportunities to rural households under MGNREGA, the States/UTs have been requested for the following:

- (i) Initiate appropriate IEC campaigns including wall paintings for wide dissemination of the provisions of the Act.
- (ii) Expand scope and coverage of demand registration system to ensure that demand for work under MGNREGA does not go unregistered.
- (iii) Organize 'Rozgar Diwas' periodically to capture latent demand under the programme and to disseminate awareness about the provisions of the Act.
- (iv) Formulation of a specific plan to include special categories of vulnerable people viz. persons with disabilities, primitive tribal groups, nomadic tribal groups, de-notified tribes etc.

- (v) Organisation of workers into labour groups to ensure powerful demand-side pulls for improving performance of MGNREGA.

To reduce the delay in payment of wages under MGNREGA, a system of payment of compensation for such delays was brought in Para 29 of Schedule II of the Act. The States/UTs have been advised to ensure compliance with this provision. The following steps are taken to check the delays in wage payment:

- (i) State Government has been advised to notify the 'Rules' and implement the system of compensation for delay in wage payment.
- (ii) State Government has been advised to review and discuss with the Programme Officers periodically the issues of delayed payments.
