

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 365
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018

ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR MGNREGS

***365. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:**

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

- (a) whether about 88 per cent of the funds available for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have already been exhausted halfway through the financial year;
- (b) whether Government had claimed that this year's MGNREGS budget is the highest ever;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is a need of an additional amount of Rs. 17,600 crore to meet the requirements under MGNREGS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 365 for 02.04.2018

(a): Fund release to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to making funds available keeping in view the demand for work. The Ministry releases funds to the States based on the basis of agreed to Labour Budget (LB), opening balance, pending liabilities of the previous financial year, if any, and overall performance. For the Financial Year 2017-18, the Budget Estimate was Rs.48,000 crore for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and it was subsequently increased to Rs.55, 000 crore by the Government. Till September, 2017, Rs. 39172 crore was released to States which is 71% of the budget.

(b): Yes Sir.

(c)&(d): The Ministry seeks additional amount for MGNREGS as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground. Demand for work increases owing to deficient rain & problem of floods in some States and increase in the wage rates. The Ministry of Finance has allocated additional fund of Rs.7000 crore for MGNREGS in the Second Supplementary Demand for Grants 2017-18.