

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1703
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2022

PROVISION OF INTEREST ON DELAYED WAGES TO MGNREGA WORKERS

1703 SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the delay of time in the payment of wages to the workers against the fixed stipulation of 15 days for the payment of wages to the MGNREGA workers under the MGNREGS;
- (b) whether Government will consider making a provision for paying interest to the MGNREGA workers for delay in the payment of wages; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government during the last three years to ensure timely payment of wages to the MGNREGA workers and what has been the outcome?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) & (b): As per the provisions mentioned in Schedule-II of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), wage seekers shall be entitled to receive payment of compensation for the delay, at the rate of 0.05% of the unpaid wages per day of delay beyond the sixteenth day of closure of muster roll.

Any delay in payment of compensation beyond a period of fifteen days from the date it becomes payable, shall be considered in the same manner as the delay in payment of wages.

The State Government shall pay the compensation upfront after due verification within the time limits as specified above and recover the compensation amount from the functionaries or agencies who are responsible for the delay in payment.

(c) As per the provision of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, the beneficiaries are entitled to get wage payment within 15 days of closure of Muster Roll of the work. Government of India has issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to the States to ensure timely wage payment. The Ministry along with the States/UTs has been making concerted efforts for improving the timely payment of wages. States/UTs have been advised to generate pay orders in time. This has resulted in considerable improvement in the status of timely generation of pay order and leading to improvement in the actual time taken to credit wages in the workers accounts. In the current financial year (as on 18.12.2022), the percentage of payment generated within 15 days is 95.55%.

The Ministry has taken various steps to ensure timely payment of wages to workers under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. These include:

- (i) Upscaling of National Electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS) in 27 States and 3 Union Territories.
- (ii) Intensive consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders to strategize timely payment of wages, verification of pending compensation claims etc.
- (iii) Formulation of Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring of timely payment and payment of compensation.
- (iv) Video conferences with States/ UTs reviewing the status of timely payment and payment of delay compensation.
- (v) States/UT's have been requested to ensure timely regeneration of rejected transaction and every fund release is tagged with priority release of rejected transaction.
- (vi) States have been requested to ensure correction of invalid accounts as per information provided by PFMS.
