

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2496
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/03/2023

WAGE INCREASE UNDER MGNREGS

2496 SHRI MASTHAN RAO BEEDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reason behind the negligible increase in the MGNREGS wage rates across the country at 4.25 per cent, amid inflation and increasing petrol prices;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the MGNREGS wage rate is less than the corresponding minimum wages for other sectors;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the reason behind the uneven annual increase in the average MGNREGS wages considering that wages increased between 8-10 per cent in 2013, 2014, and 2021 whereas the increase was a mere 1.6% in 2020?

ANSWER

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

(a)to(d): As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, the Central Government may by notification specify the wage rate for unskilled work for its beneficiaries. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rate for every financial year for States/UTs. To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers against inflation, the Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rate every financial year based on changes in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). The index is different for different States/UTs as notified by Labour Bureau, Shimla. If the calculated wage rate of any State/UT is coming lower than the wage rate of the previous financial year, it is being protected by maintaining the previous financial year's wage rate. The wage rate is made applicable from the 1st of April of each financial year.

Centrally, this Ministry does not maintain data on minimum wage rates in respect of States/UTs, agricultural or otherwise. However each State/UT can provide wages over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government.
