

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1411**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/08/2024

**MGNREGA SCHEME IN HILLY AREAS**

**1411 Shri Harsh Mahajan:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) scheme in the hilly areas, particularly in Himachal Pradesh, if so, the details of corrective actions undertaken for the said purpose; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that employment is available under MGNREGA as per demand but daily wages are very low as compared to daily wages in private sector development works, for the same kind of work, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

(a): No specific challenge/problem is being faced by any hilly State, including Himachal Pradesh under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS). However, as and when any specific issue related to the implementation of the Scheme is brought to the Ministry efforts are made to resolve the same at the earliest.

(b): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand-driven wage employment Scheme. It provides livelihood security, i.e. fall back options for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available.

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 its beneficiaries. Accordingly from the financial year 2011-12, the Government of India started determining the wage rates using the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL).

The Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rate every financial year based on change 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 as per the index for the current year results in lower wage rate than the wage rate of previous year, it is being protected by maintaining the previous year wage rate. The revised wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year. However, each State/UT can provide wages over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government.

Notified wage rates for unskilled workers in the State of Himachal Pradesh under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 is given below:

State	2023-24	2024-25
Himachal Pradesh Non-Scheduled Areas	224	236
Himachal Scheduled Areas	280	295

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