

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 787
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/12/2025

REVISION OF INDEXATION OF MGNREGA WAGES

787 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Dr. Nagesh Singh Committee recommended using Consumer Price Index-Rural (CPI-R) instead of Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) for wage indexation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal sent to the Department of Expenditure and approvals received;
- (c) whether the shift to CPI-R initiated in July 2019 was subsequently dropped; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor including the details of the deliberation on 25.10.2021 with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation and the Ministry of Labour and Employment?

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b): A committee was constituted to study, inter-alia, the appropriate index for revising wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Employment Scheme. The Committee in its report has recommended that the Consumer Price Index for Rural (CPI-R) may be used in place of the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) for the purpose of revisiting and indexing MGNREGA wage rates.

The proposal was examined in consultation with the Department of Expenditure (DoE). The DoE had supported the proposal and stated that any change in the financial implications of the Scheme may be dealt with in accordance with the extant guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure vide O.M. No. 24(35)/PF-II/2012 dated 05.08.2016.

(c)& (d): The information required to process the implementation of the said recommendation of the committee is awaited from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) regarding the revision of the base year.

As per the deliberations in the meeting held on 25.01.2021, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation had conveyed that the revision of the base year of CPI-R might take some time. The Ministry of Labour and Employment had conveyed that the exercise for base year revision of CPI-AL would be available soon.

In the latest communication dated 28.01.2025, MoSPI has intimated that the revision of the CPI base from 2012=100 to 2024=100 has been commenced and the finalization of weights and compilation methodology is currently in progress.
