

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 517
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2018

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE UNDER MGNREGS

517. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:

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

- (a) whether not a single person from Punjab was given unemployment allowance under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in 2017-18 and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether out of 15.27 lakh workers in Punjab registered under the scheme only 9,517 were employed for 100 days and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to link agriculture with MGNREGS which shall benefit farming oriented States such as Punjab and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to reduce wage payments delay; and
- (e) whether there is any monitoring mechanism which ensures timely dispersal of payment to workers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a): State Government of Punjab has intimated that no such instance has been reported in the districts of Punjab, hence, no unemployment allowance has been given to the beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in 2017-18.

(b): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 provides at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The demand for work itself is influenced by various factors such as rain-fall pattern, availability of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA and prevailing unskilled wage rates. State Government of Punjab has intimated that out of 15.27 lakh households registered under the Scheme, 7.66 lakh have demanded employment during 2017-18. Out of them, 9517 demanded and were provided employment for 100 days.

(c): To strengthen the Scheme's synergy with agriculture and sustainable livelihoods, it is now mandatory that at least 60% of the works taken up in a district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

(d)&(e): Efforts have been made by the Ministry to reduce the delay in payment of wages to the MGNREGA workers viz., timely release of funds, payment through National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) for direct payment of wages into workers account, issued guidelines for monitoring of timely payment and enabling appropriate provisions in NREGASoft to monitor timely payment of wages.
