

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2548
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.07.2019

PAYMENT OF WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

2548. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the mechanism adopted by the Government for the payment of wages to beneficiaries under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS) as on date;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that some difficulties have been faced by the beneficiaries owing to either illiteracy, lack of bank/post office branches nearby in rural areas;
- (c) if so, the remedial action taken/likely to be taken by the Government for revamping banks/post offices in rural areas; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system has been adopted under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for wage payment. The Government has started National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 24 States and 1 UT for direct payment of wages into the account of MGNREGA workers. All the DBT payments of wages under MGNREGS are routed through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

(b) to (d): Banks have engaged last mile functionaries for ensuring payment of wages of MGNREGA workers and basic banking facility through hand-held devices. The Department of Posts is also providing Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) based hand-held devices to Branch post offices to offer online postal & financial services in the rural areas. The Ministry has provided relaxation in DBT payment of MGNREGA wages in some rural areas where bank/post office network is not adequate & internet connectivity is poor. As per the information shared by the Department of Financial Services, total number of functioning rural branches of Commercial Banks and number of Business Correspondents (BCs) deployed by them to provide banking services in rural areas are as under:

Year	Rural Branches	Rural-branchless mode/BCs
As on March 31, 2016	48,228	5.31 lakh
As on March 31, 2017	49,847	5.43 lakh
As on March 31, 2018	50,859	5.15 lakh
As on March 31, 2019	51,653	Not available
