

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2168**  
ANSWERED ON 14/03/2023

**INCREASE IN RURAL WAGES**

2168. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been nominal increase in rural wages but when calculated against the rate of inflation, the real rural wages have had a negative growth; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): As per the information shared by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & Employment, the Labour Bureau compiles and maintains average daily wage rate data in respect of selected agricultural and non-agricultural occupations on the basis of the data collected by the Field Operation Division (FOD) of National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation from a fixed set of 600 sample villages spread over 20 States.

Month-wise average daily wage rate in respect of Non-Agricultural Occupation along with the Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) from January 2017 to 2022 is given at **Annexure-I**.

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 change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL). If the calculated wage rate of any State 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 revised wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year. However, State Governments can provide wages over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

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Annexure-I referred in reply to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2168 dated 14.03.2023

Month-wise average daily wage rates in respect of Non-Agricultural Occupation along with Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) from January 2017 to December, 2022.							
Year	Month	Wage Rate	CPI-RL	Year	Month	Wage Rate	CPI-RL
2017	January	266.38	876	2018	January	277.31	901
	February	267.67	874		February	278.03	896
	March	268.23	872		March	278.94	894
	April	268.89	876		April	279.20	896
	May	269.05	878		May	279.82	899
	June	270.03	884		June	280.92	902
	July	271.04	890		July	282.05	910
	August	272.61	900		August	284.49	915
	September	273.73	899		September	285.20	917
	October	274.85	907		October	285.24	920
	November	275.86	910		November	286.00	921
	December	275.72	906		December	287.27	921
2019	January	288.71	923	2020	January	296.63	1021
	February	288.95	925		February	297.29	1016
	March	289.43	932		March	297.25	1013
	April	289.96	939		*April	-	1019
	May	291.20	948		May	319.47	1025
	June	291.82	957		June	319.23	1024
	July	292.08	965		July	320.99	1028
	August	293.22	972		August	316.04	1033
	September	293.29	983		September	310.88	1043
	October	294.09	993		October	311.37	1057
	November	294.62	1006		November	311.01	1065
	December	295.03	1019		December	311.92	1053
2021	January	313.69	1045	2022	January	331.54	1105
	February	316.00	1044		February	335.34	1106
	March	317.62	1043		March	337.41	1109
	April	318.43	1049		*April	339.54	1119
	May	320.18	1057		May	340.79	1131
	June	320.22	1065		June	342.51	1137
	July	322.60	1070		July	344.58	1143
	August	323.35	1074		August	346.20	1152
	September	325.58	1076		September	347.23	1161
	October	327.08	1090		October	349.68	1170
	November	327.68	1101		November	350.93	1178
	December	329.26	1106		December	351.41	1179

\*Due to Covid pandemic, the data for the month of April, 2020 could not be collected and compiled.

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