

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2401
ANSWERED ON 03/08/2021

WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILLED ARTISANS DURING CORONA PERIOD

2401. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:
SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI DIPSINH SHANKARSINH RATHOD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes any scheme to include Handloom Weavers and other Artisans in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Scheme to avoid Demographic imbalance and social problems due to migration of potters, metal and wood or stone carving, weaving and printing workers, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there is any plan to provide work opportunities to skilled artisans like handloom weavers, handicraftsman, potters, metal and wood or stone carving, weaving in view of the closed work during the Corona period, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of measures/initiatives taken by the Government to recognize the skilled craft to provide employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), who often work part time at their craft, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 is an Act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the household in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It is a demand driven programme and the types of works are mentioned in the Schedule-I of the Act. The Scheme is not a regular employment Scheme but a fall back option. The skilled workers are engaged as per the requirement of the work. However, there is no plan to give work opportunity to the skilled artisans like handloom weavers, handicrafts artisans, potters, metal and wood or stone carving and weaving artisans.
