

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2625
ANSWERED ON 02/08/2022

AFFORESTATION WORK UNDER MGNREGS

2625. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:
SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) includes the removal of weeds in the forest and works for afforestation purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is true that the work of removal of invasive species is not covered under the MGNREGS; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment programme. The core objective of the Scheme is to provide not less than 100 days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability.

As per para 4(1) of Schedule-I of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), afforestation, tree plantation and horticulture in common and forest lands, road margins, canal bunds, tanks foreshores and coastal belts are permissible activities

As per para 4(3) of Schedule-I, "works which are non-tangible, not measurable, repetitive such as, removing grass, pebbles, agricultural operations, shall not be taken up". Accordingly removal of weeds and works of removal of invasive species are not permissible under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
