

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.02.2016

ASSESSMENT OF MGNREGS

322. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:
SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI PATIL:
ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government or any of its agency has made any assessment of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) with the purpose of finding out the extent to which the said scheme has succeeded in improving the standard of living in rural areas, if so, the details and findings thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to widen the coverage of MGNREGS and strengthen it to enable inclusion of more activities including agriculture thereunder for rural development and increasing the permitted number of work days under the said scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which such a decision is likely to be taken and implemented in order to make the said scheme more vibrant and effective?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): Several Studies have been conducted by independent research institutions on the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). These studies have been published by the Ministry of Rural Development and United Nations Development Programme (India). The results of the studies show that:

1. MGNREGA appears to be largely successful in its targeting. Studies show that MGNREGA due to its self-selecting demand driven design is able to engage with the most vulnerable and marginalised.
2. Several Studies also suggest that beneficiaries find the works useful; works increased the land productivity, helped multi-cropping, helped to manage risks and reduced vulnerability.
3. The evidence on MGNREGA and its impact on rural labour markets are mixed.
4. The evidence that MGNREGA mitigates distress migration is limited to the western and the eastern contexts, is yet compelling. While women's participation rates in MGNREGA are satisfactory at the aggregate national level much higher than the

mandatory 33%, several states need to address low women participation rates in their contexts.

(b)to(d): The Ministry has comprehensively revised the list of permissible works under MGNREGA vide Gazette Notification dated 3.1.2014. The revised works as listed in Para 4(1), Schedule I of MGNREGA, 2005 is at **Annexure**. The States/ UTs can take up any work out of the works listed in Schedule-1, MGNREGA.

Vide the Notification dated 21.07.2014, amendments have been made by the Government in paragraph 4 and 20 of Schedule –I of the MGNREGA providing for at least 60% of the works in a district in terms of cost for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

Annexure referred in reply to part (b to d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 322 dated 25.02.2016

I. Category: A: PUBLIC WORKS RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- (i) **Water conservation** and water harvesting structures to augment and improve groundwater like underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams, check dams with special focus on recharging ground water including drinking water sources;
- (ii) **Watershed management** works such as contour trenches, terracing, contour bunds, boulder checks, gabion structures and spring shed development resulting in a comprehensive treatment of a watershed;
- (iii) Micro and minor irrigation works and creation, renovation and maintenance of **irrigation** canals and drains;
- (iv) Renovation of **traditional water bodies** including desilting of irrigation tanks and other water bodies;
- (v) **Afforestation**, tree plantation and horticulture in common and forest lands, road margins, canal bunds, tank foreshores and coastal belts duly providing right to usufruct to the households covered in Paragraph 5; and
- (vi) Land development works in common land.

II. Category B: COMMUNITY ASSETS OR INDIVIDUAL ASSETS FOR VULNERABLE SECTIONS (ONLY FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN PARAGRAPH 5):

- (i) **Improving productivity of lands** of households specified in Paragraph 5 through land development and by providing suitable infrastructure for irrigation including dug wells, farm ponds and other water harvesting structures;
- (ii) **Improving livelihoods through** horticulture, sericulture, plantation, and farm forestry;
- (iii) **Development of fallow or waste lands** of households defined in Paragraph 5 to bring it under cultivation;
- (iv) Unskilled wage component in **construction of houses** sanctioned under the Indira Awaas Yojana or such other State or Central Government Scheme;
- (v) Creating infrastructure for **promotion of livestock** such as, poultry shelter, goat shelter, piggery shelter, cattle shelter and fodder troughs for cattle; and
- (vi) Creating infrastructure for **promotion of fisheries** such as, fish drying yards, storage facilities, and promotion of fisheries in seasonal water bodies on public land;

III. Category C: COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING FOR NRLM COMPLIANT SELF HELP GROUPS:

- (i) Works for promoting **agricultural productivity** by creating durable infrastructure required for bio-fertilizers and post-harvest facilities including pucca storage facilities for agricultural produce; and
- (ii) Common work-sheds for livelihood activities of self-help groups.

IV. Category D: RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

- (i) **Rural sanitation** related works, such as, individual household latrines, school toilet units, Anganwadi toilets either independently or in convergence with schemes of other Government Departments to achieve 'open defecation free' status. and solid and liquid waste management as per prescribed norms
- (ii) Providing all-weather rural **road connectivity** to unconnected villages and to connect identified rural production centres to the existing pucca road network; and construction of pucca **internal roads** or **streets** including side drains and culverts within a village;
- (iii) Construction of play fields;
- (iv) Works for improving disaster preparedness or restoration of roads or restoration of other essential public infrastructure including flood control and protection works, providing drainage in water logged areas, deepening and repairing of flood channels, chaur renovation, construction of storm water drains for coastal protection;
- (v) Construction of buildings for Gram Panchayats, women self-help groups' federations, cyclone shelters, Anganwadi centres, village haats and crematoria at the village or block level.
- (vi) Construction of Food Grain Storage Structures for implementing the provisions of The National Food Security Act 2013 (20 of 2013);
- (vii) Production of building material required for construction works under the Act as a part of the estimate of such construction works.
- (viii) Maintenance of rural public assets created under the Act; and
- (ix) any other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government in this regard.