

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 433
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.02.2016

APPRAISAL OF MGNREGS

433. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE:

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

- (a) whether Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS) and other rural development schemes have not been able to achieve their aims and objectives upto the desired level due to lack of technical and appropriate supervisory officers during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a)&(b): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has (i) reduced distress migration among rural poor, (ii) smoothened rural consumption in the lean season (iii) set high standards in transparency, (iv) addressed under-employment problem (v) created assets that improved livelihoods (vi) gave boost to the financial inclusion (vii) strengthened Gram Panchayats (viii) improved the wage levels in rural areas and thereby increasing the income levels of the poorest of poor (ix) set standards for decent working conditions and (x) helped in bringing fallow lands into cultivation.

The programme has also faced challenges of (i) delays in payment of wages (ii) corrupt practices in implementation (iii) denial of entitlements (iv) poor technical capacity to implement large number of works and (v) poor quality of assets created.

(c): Major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA is given in **Annexure-I**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 433 dated 25.02.2016

Major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA

Better planning and asset identification

- An Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE) /Mission Antyodaya has been launched in 2569 most backward blocks. This exercise has helped in identifying better quality assets that need to be created.
- For improving convergence with the line departments, and thereby to improve the quality of assets, the State Convergence Plans have been formulated.

Improving the quality of works

- The associated outcomes of each work are being recorded before taking up the work, and the same is being measured after completion of the work-thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.
- Ministry would conduct training of Technical Resource Persons from the States/UTs on different technical aspects of works which can be taken up under the scheme.
- The States/UTs have been asked to deploy State Quality Monitors to inspect the quality of assets created under the Scheme.
- States have been advised to engage technical assistants/barefoot engineers for better technical planning and supervision of works under MGNREG.
- Mobile Monitoring Systems have been introduced in 35000 GPs for better implementation of the scheme.

Better transparency, accountability and grievance redressal

- States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social audits of MGNREGS works in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. In order to support the States to conduct the Social Audits as laid down under the Rules, it has been decided to provide technical assistance of Rs.147 crore under a special Project.
- All States have been requested to set up an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) and appoint Ombudsman at the district level for grievance redressal.
- The Ministry has established a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for MGNREGA, which, inter alia, include visits of the Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors.
- With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tempering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced.

Fund management and avoiding delays in payment

- The Ministry has initiated Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) which directly credits the wages into the respective beneficiary's accounts using the core banking system. States have been asked to universalise the operationalisation of electronic Fund Management System to ensure smooth flow of funds from the State to the wage seekers and to eliminate delays in payment of wages.