GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1188**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2013

**PARITY IN WAGES OF CASUAL AND MGNREGA LABOURERS**

**1188. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE:**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the casual labourers are paid higher wages in comparison with MGNREGA labourers;

(b) if so, the details of wages paid to casual labourers and MGNREGA labourers during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to bring parity among the wages of these workers throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN ‘ADITYA’)**

(a)&(b): Under Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the unskilled wage rates are notified by the Central Government State-wise and are periodically revised. The last revision was done with effect from 1st April 2013. The wage rates for unskilled labour under non-government schemes are notified by State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, and different rates are notified for different types of unskilled work given in Part II of the Schedule of that Act. It is not possible to compare wages paid under these two different enactments.

(c) to (e): The Ministry has received suggestions from States and social organisations etc., regarding bringing wages under MGNREGA at par with minimum wages notified by the State Governments for unskilled agricultural workers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The matter is sub-judice in a case before the Hon’ble Supreme Court.

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