

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29	D & N Haveli	0.02	.0.47	54.52	0.00031	0.00
30	Daman & Diu	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
31	Goa	0.14	3.7	512.46	0.01	0.01
32	Lakshadweep	0.05	1.34	185.09	0.00075	0.00
33	Puducherry	0.38	11.27	1023.97	0.01	0.00
34	Chandigarh	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total		549.47	25715.24	2568652.93	50.99	25.90

#### Increase in work days and wages under MGNREGS

3706. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government is going to ensure work for 150 days and minimum Rs. 200/- as wage per day under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS); and

(b) the steps taken to increase wages and allowances and job security in various Central Schemes and Programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to increase the number of guaranteed days of employment or to fix Rs. 200/- per day as wage for workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The wage rate fixed by the State Governments as on 01.12.2008 for unskilled agriculture labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, was adopted and notified as the wage rate under the MGNREGA as per Section 6(1) of the Act. In accordance with this Section, the Government subsequently also revised the wages in respect of all States and Union Territories under MGNREGA, by indexing the notified wage rate to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPIAL).

The primary objective of MGNREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. The MGNREG Act also provides for a host of other benefits to the workers which are otherwise not available to agricultural labour under the

Minimum Wages Act. These benefits are in the nature of providing employment within radius of 5 Km, in case distance is more than 5 Km, payment of additional 10% of wage rate as extra wages for meeting transportation and living expenses, free medical treatment for injury, expenses of hospitalization if required and payment of daily allowance, payment of ex-gratia in cases of death or permanent disability, provisions for safe drinking water, sheds/creche for children etc, free medical treatment on injury to any child accompanying workers and ex-gratia payment. Central schemes and programmes like MGNREGA are aimed at poverty reduction, welfare, sectoral development and sustainable economic, infrastructure and social development of the beneficiaries in the long term.

#### **Creating aquifers under MGNREGS**

3707. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to use the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds to ensure that every 500 households has a aquifer or mini watershed;

(b) the details of technical support system to be made available for Panchayats to build and maintain such aquifers and watershed;

(c) whether watershed management is already an acceptable activity under MGNREGS; and

(d) if so, the details of special or distinctive aspects of the new scheme being offered to villages under MGNREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per Schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), focus of activities under MGNREGA include water conservation and water harvesting, irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works, provision of irrigation facility, renovation of traditional water bodies including de-silting of tanks and flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas. The various modes of water conservation and water