

1	2	3	4
26	Uttarakhand	234.7	249.8
27	West Bengal	1656.6	1883.2
28	Andaman and Nicobar	7.5	14.3
29	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.5	NR
30	Daman and Diu	NR	NR
31	Goa	5.1	4.9
32	Lakshadweep	1.9	2.4
33	Puducherry	10.2	12.5
34	Chandigarh	NR	NR
TOTAL		25686.5	24860.9

NR=Not Reported

Wages paid under MGNREGA

2302. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference between the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the minimum wages determined by the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is proposing to align the wages under MGNREGA and the minimum wages determined by the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Wages for workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are fixed by the Central Government under Section 6(1) of the MGNREG Act, which states that notwithstanding anything contained in the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the Central Government may by notification specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act.

Section 28 states that "The provisions of this Act or the Schemes made thereunder shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of such law". Thus, Section 28 clearly state that MGNREGA has overriding effect over preceding legislations. Thus, both Sections 6(1) and Section 28 give the Central Government the power to determine its wage rates independent of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Minimum wages for unskilled agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are fixed by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Minimum Wages Act, 1940 is administered by Ministry of Labour. However, as per the information available with Ministry of Rural Development, under the present MGNREGA wage policy, prevailing wage rates are already higher than those fixed by States in respect of unskilled agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in majority of States, except 10 States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar. The wage rates have been last revised in 2013 vide notification dated 26.02.2013. The prevailing and revised rates effective from 1st April, 2013 are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Ministry of Rural Development is contemplating proposing an amendment in MGNREGA that will align it with the minimum wage with regard to a base year with annual indexation to inflation in order to provide a certain uniformity of regime across all States. The proposed changes will have to go through a process of legal formulation and Cabinet approval.

Statement

The prevailing and revised rates

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Prevailing wage rate (Rs.)	Wage rate effective from 01.04.2013 (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	137	149.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	124	135.00
3	Assam	136	152.00
4	Bihar	122	138.00
5	Chhattisgarh	132	146.00
6	Gujarat	134	147.00

1	2	3	4
7	Haryana	191	214.00
8	Himachal Pradesh - Non	126	138.00
8a	Himachal Pradesh - Scheduled	157	171.00
9	Jammu and Kashmir	131	145.00
10	Jharkhand	122	138.00
11	Karnataka	155	174.00
12	Kerala	164	180.00
13	Madhya Pradesh	132	146.00
14	Maharashtra	145	162.00
15	Manipur	144	153.00
16	Meghalaya	128	145.00
17	Mizoram	136	148.00
18	Nagaland	124	135.00
19	Odisha	126	143.00
20	Punjab	166	184.00
21	Rajasthan	133	149.00
22	Sikkim	124	135.00
23	Tamil Nadu	132	148.00
24	Tripura	124	135.00
25	Uttar Pradesh	125	142.00
26	Uttarakhand	125	142.00
27	West Bengal	136	151.00
28	Goa	158	178.00
29a	Andaman and Nicobar	178	198.00
29b	Andaman and Nicobar	189	210.00
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	157	175.00
31	Daman and Diu	136	150.00
32	Lakshadweep	151	166.00
33	Puducherry	132	148.00
34	Chandigarh	189	209.00