266	Written Answers to	[RAJYA SABHA]		Unstarred Questions	
1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	4	0.42
18.	Mizoram	0	0.00	5	12.87
19.	Nagaland	0	0.00	10	65.42
20.	Odisha	2020	523.32	5051	1496.76
21.	Punjab	1	1.25	0	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	25051	10346.61	23236	12876.68
23.	Sikkim	0	0.00	0	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	34	18.04	0	0.00
25.	Tripura	11	8.06	73	73.62
26.	Uttar Pradesh	23838	2098.04	755	507.44
27.	Uttarakhand	449	134.16	10	5.78
28.	West Bengal	2396	1132.16	1060	339.04
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7	0.00	ī	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0	0.00
33.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0	0.00
34.	Puducherry	0	0.00	0	0.00
16-	Total	124644	39206.98	128674	67386.02

## Payment of wages under MGNREGA

3075. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN : SHRI D. RAJA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Indian Express, Delhi Edition, dated the 26th March, 2013 titled "MGNREGA mockery Rs. 001 per day";

- (b) if so, whether Government has received any complaint from an NGO pointing out the abnormally low wages; and
- (c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news item as well as a reference from the NGO - 'Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan' regarding payment of low wages to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers in Rajasthan, was considered by the Ministry and a preliminary report has been obtained from the State Government being the implementation authority of MGNREGA. Low wages can be attributed to various reasons including use of machinery by the workers, work not being carried out as per the prescribed norms and quantum prescribed, wrong feeding of data in MIS etc. The Ministry has decided to assign the task of in-depth investigation of the complaint to a National Level Monitor.

## Expansion of pension system

3076. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

- (a) whether Government has agreed to expand the existing pension system by including more categories of vulnerable men and women and disabled people and doing away with the distinction of APL/BPL categories;
- (b) whether Government has agreed to increase the quantum of monthly pension considering the current cost of living; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when the new universal pension scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LAL CHAND KATARIA): (a) to (c) On the direction of the Union Cabinet, a Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for a Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force considered various issues, demands and suggestions relating to pension schemes under NSAP, received from various quarters including those on lowering the widow pension age to eighteen years and expanding