

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are facilitated using an e-Governance system, which is available both in offline as well as online mode.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. 452 Blocks in various States have a difficulty in using this system for want of IT connectivity. Steps are being taken to provide IT connectivity to these Blocks using VSAT facility.

Changes in MGNREGA

1972. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made significant changes to its flagship programme the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is also considering to include Rs. 10,000 for construction of toilets for all job card holders and assistance for buildings for women self-help federations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Government have substantially revised the Schedule I and II of the Act and notified them on 3rd January 2014. The major provisions of the revised schedules notified on 3rd January 2014 are:

1. Greater focus on provisions to improve the quality of works and make them more productive to the community and to the beneficiaries.
2. More provisions to promote agricultural growth and thereby boost the rural economy by adding the following works in the approved list:
 - (i) Community Storage facilities for the agricultural produce.
 - (ii) Creation of 'Farmnet' roads that link rural production centres with PMGSY roads).
 - (iii) Works for preparation of organic fertilizers to make available affordable and organic fertilisers in the village itself.

- (iv) Comprehensive watershed-based treatment of undulating lands to make them productive irrespective of the size of the landholding.
- (v) Removing restrictions on maintenances of irrigation tanks/canals/drains to keep them in good shape at all times.

3. The list of works has been expanded and classified into 4 categories:

- (i) Category A: are public assets which have high capacity create employment. Atleast one work in this category shall be kept running all the time to address the requirement to provide work as per demand.
 - (ii) Category B: Works which build the individual assets for rural poor and vulnerable categories.
 - (iii) Category C: Works which align with the livelihood plans of women Self Help Groups for sustainable livelihoods.
 - (iv) Category D: Works for rural infrastructure including:
 - a. Construction of houses for the poor.
 - b. Rural sanitation either independently or in convergence to achieve 'open defecation free' status in all villages. Under this, individual toilets can be taken up at a cost of Rs. 10,000 by any job card holder.
 - c. Maintenance of assets created under the Act.
 - d. Works for disaster preparedness or restoration of public infrastructure after a disaster.
 - e. Buildings for SHG federations and centres for manufacturing building materials in the villages.
4. Collection of demand at least once a month in every Ward through Rozgar Diwas.
5. Non-provision of work as per demand should automatically result in unemployment allowance using IT based systems.
6. Provisions for automatic calculation of compensation for delayed payments @ 0.05% per day of delay beyond the 15th day from the date of closure of muster roll.
7. Greater focus on the provisions for transparency and accountability by:

- (i) Making the estimates more people-friendly, and the data more accessible to general public.
- (ii) Proactive disclosure of various aspects of implementation through website, wall-writing and other means.
- (iii) All material for the works to be procured only by transparent tender process which shall be open for scrutiny.
- (iv) Strengthening the provisions of social audit, along with provisions for follow-up action on the reports.
- (v) Introduction of concurrent social audit with the active youth in every village.

Irregularities in MGNREGA

1973. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many a grave irregularities in the implementation of MGNREGA have been found in several States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering to stop funds to these States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Ministry has received 3,508 complaints about implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during the last 3 years and current year as per details given in the Statement (*See below*). All these complaints are examined in consultation with the State Governments or by an independent enquiry by National Level Monitors. Based on the enquiry, 1,865 complaints are closed after directing States to take action as per enquiry. The balance 1,643 are under enquiry.

(c) and (d) Where defects in implementation are noticed after due enquiry, Government directs the concerned State Government to rectify or take action on the persons found responsible and send compliance report. No case has been found, where Central Government should exercise powers under Section 27 (2) of the Act namely stoppage of funds for the whole State, was found warranted.