

- (b) the number of letters on which interim and final reply has been sent to MPs;
- (c) the number of letters on which action has taken and those on which action is still pending;
- (d) the number of letters on which neither any reply has been sent to MPs nor any action has been taken thereon along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken to avoid the situation in part (d) above?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) One hundred twenty five letters have been received from Members of Parliament (MPs) since August, 2014 till date;

(b) Against these One hundred twenty five letters, final or interim reply has been sent in forty six cases;

(c) and (d) The reply in each case is under process.

(e) The Ministry has now nominated nodal officers in each division to monitor the progress in respect of these letters. An online system has been developed in the Department to track the status of these letters. Disposal of these letters is monitored by Secretary, Rural Development on a fortnightly basis.

#### **Functioning of MGNREGA**

†3277. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families registered and the number of job cards issued under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Uttar Pradesh during the current year;

(b) the details of welfare measures available for workers at work places under MGNREGA;

(c) whether a large number of people living below the poverty line are being deprived of the benefits of MGNREGA;

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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (e) the corrective measures taken by Government for resolving this issue?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) 152.5 lakhs households have been issued job cards so far in UP under MGNREGA. Of this 1.45 lakh households have been registered and 1.00 lakh households have been issued job cards during the current year (till date).

(b) Welfare measures under MGNREGA are elaborated in Paragraphs 25 to 28, Schedule II of MGNREGA 2005. The details of such welfare measures for the workers at work places are:

- (i) provision of facilities at the worksite *viz.* safe drinking water, shade for children and periods of rest, first-aid box with adequate emergency material for treatment of minor injuries and other health hazards connected with the work being performed at the worksite.
- (ii) provision of child care services at any worksite if the number of children below the age of five years accompanying the women working is five or more.
- (iii) free medical treatment to a person in case of personal injury arising out of and in course of his/ her employment.
- (iv) hospitalisation of the injured worker including accommodation, treatment, medicines and payment of daily allowance which should not be less than half of the wage rate.
- (v) ex-gratia as per entitlements under Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana or as may be notified by Central Government to a person if he/she while employed under the Scheme meets with death or becomes permanently disabled.
- (vi) free medical facility/ex-gratia to an injured child accompanying a person who is employed under the Scheme.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. As per the provisions of the MGNREGA, any person who volunteers to do unskilled manual work shall be provided work on demand. The Act has neither preference for nor discrimination against any household for the purpose of providing work as per demand. However, the Central Government has taken the following steps to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA:-

- At least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.
- The wage-material ratio for works taken up by agencies other than Gram Panchayats would be counted at the district level to facilitate taking more durable assets.
- The associated outcomes of each work would be estimated before taking up the work and the same would be measured after completion of the work- thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.
- The quality of the assets is sought to be improved through better planning and closer technical supervision.
- States/UTs have been asked to operationalize the provision relating to compensation for delayed wage payments as per Para-29, Schedule II of MGNREGA 2005.
- States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social audits of MGNREGS works in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tempering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced.
- For smooth fund flow, the electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) has been introduced which would also reduce delays in payment of wages.
- All States have been requested to appoint Ombudsman at the district level for grievance redressal.
- The Ministry has established a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for MGNREGA, which, *inter alia*, include visits of Area Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors and Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings at the State/ District levels.
- To facilitate states to engage technical assistants/barefoot engineers for better technical planning and supervision of works under MGNREGA, guidelines have been issued to allow their establishment cost as a part of material cost of works instead of administrative cost.
- Formulation of State Convergence Plan in 21 States.