

Payment of wages under MGNREGA

767. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70 per cent of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wages have remained unpaid during this fiscal year in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the current situation thereof and the reasons for the delay in wage payments;

(c) whether many State Governments are facing serious fund crunches for timely payment of MGNREGA wages; and

(d) if so, Government's views and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. So far, ₹ 21,161 cr. has been paid and another ₹ 2,825 cr. is under payment as wages to workers who worked in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme during the current financial year. MGNREG Act provides for payment of wages to the workers to be made within a period of 15 days. However, there have been cases of delay in payment of wages due to following reasons:-

- Shortage of funds in peak working season of April-July 2014 due to non-passing of the full Budget till July 2014.
- Delays occurring in transfer of funds from State Consolidated Fund to State Employment Guarantee Fund (SEGF)/Implementing Agencies.
- Implementation issues in the states which include delays in measurement, inadequate staff, poor spread of banking infrastructure, etc.

(c) and (d) Due to the delayed passing of full Budget in 2014-15, there have been complaints by States about the delayed release of funds during the 1st quarter of the year. However this was not a normal occurrence and it is not expected to repeat. Steps have also been taken to implement the Electronic Fund Management System that would smoothen the fund flow for implementation. Funds under the MGNREGA are released to the State based on the agreed labour budget and the progress in implementation.