

Timely payment of wages under MGNREGA

2528. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has sought Government's reply on a PIL seeking information regarding prompt and timely payment of wages and compensation to rural workers under MGNREGA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether irregularities in MGNREGA has eroded the entire objective of securing livelihood for people of rural areas and dues payable to them have mounted to 3100 crore due to failure to provide funds for the work done; and

(d) whether poor implementation of MGNREGA by the Central as well as State Governments has rendered it ineffective and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Ministry has received recently a Writ Petition (Civil) No. of 768/2015 (Public Interest Litigation) filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi regarding timely payment of wages and compensation to workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The matter is sub-judice.

(c) There have been certain complaints of irregularities in implementation of MGNREGA from many States. As per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned state Governments for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law. Detailed instructions by way of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with complaints have also been issued to all States/UTs. As per program Management Information System (MIS), State/UT- wise details of the payment due towards unskilled workers under MGNREGA for the current year (upto 27/11/2015) are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(d) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has (i) reduced distress migration among rural poor, (ii) smoothened rural consumption in the lean season (iii) set high standards in transparency, (iv) addressed under-employment problem (v) created assets that improved livelihoods (vi) gave boost to the financial inclusion (vii) strengthened Gram Panchayats (viii) improved the wage levels in rural areas and thereby increasing the income levels of the poorest of poor (ix) set standards for decent working conditions and (x) helped in bringing fallow lands into cultivation.

The programme has also faced challenges of (i) delays in payment of wages (ii) corrupt practices in implementation (iii) denial of entitlements (iv) poor technical capacity to implement large number of works and (v) poor quality of assets created.

The major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of the payment due towards unskilled workers under MGNREGA

Wage expenditure FY: 2015-16 till 27/11/2015

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	States	Wage Liability (Payment Due)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1896.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2714.33
3.	Assam	5019.21
4.	Bihar	15431.78
5.	Chhattisgarh	8218.27
6.	Goa	19.97
7.	Gujarat	606.39
8.	Haryana	646.98
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6478.61
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2912.12
11.	Jharkhand	4238
12.	Karnataka	2485.22
13.	Kerala	12705.62
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5710.87
15.	Maharashtra	2192.79
16.	Manipur	188.99
17.	Meghalaya	8342.38
18.	Mizoram	0.26
19.	Nagaland	17068.24

1	2	3
20.	Odisha	6199.49
21.	Punjab	3575.83
22.	Rajasthan	4760.85
23.	Sikkim	683.34
24.	Tamil Nadu	9223.18
25.	Telangana	1677.63
26.	Tripura	4067.29
27.	Uttar Pradesh	17431.34
28.	Uttarakhand	3254.69
29.	West Bengal	66922.59
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	87.31
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NR
32.	Daman and Diu	NR
33.	Lakshadweep	0
34.	Puducherry	3.89
TOTAL		214764.18

NR=Not Reported

Statement-II

Major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA

Better planning and asset identification

- An Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE) /Mission Antyodaya has been launched in 2569 most backward blocks. This exercise has helped in identifying better quality assets that need to be created.
- For improving convergence with the line departments, and thereby to improve the quality of assets, the State Convergence Plans have been formulated.

Improving the quality of works

- The associated outcomes of each work are being recorded before taking up the work, and the same is being measured after completion of the work- thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.
- Ministry would conduct training of Technical Resource Persons from the States/UTs on different technical aspects of works which can be taken up under the scheme.

- The States/UTs have been asked to deploy State Quality Monitors to inspect the quality of assets created under the Scheme.
- States have been advised to engage technical assistants/barefoot engineers for better technical planning and supervision of works under MGNREG.
- Mobile Monitoring Systems have been introduced in 35000 GPs for better implementation of the scheme.

Better transparency, accountability and grievance redressal

- 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. In order to support the States to conduct the Social Audits as laid down under the Rules, it has been decided to provide technical assistance of Rs.147 crore under a special Project.
- All States have been requested to set up an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) and 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 the Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors.
- 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.

Fund management and avoiding delays in payment

- The Ministry has initiated Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) which directly credits the wages into the respective beneficiary's accounts using the core banking system. States have been asked to universalise the operationalisation of electronic Fund Management System to ensure smooth flow of funds from the State to the wage seekers and to eliminate delays in payment of wages.

Assets created under MGNREGA

2529. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during the last three years and the funds allocated to State Governments thereunder till date, Statewise;

(b) whether Government is concerned about assets generated under MGNREGA, as despite huge money being spent by Government, there is no real solid work done under this scheme, which is really helpful to the people; and