

- Social inclusion of candidates through mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups.
- Minimum Salary of ₹ 6000 per month or minimum wages specified by a State Government, whichever is higher (after a three month training course).
- Post-placement support to candidates.
- Career progression support, retention support and foreign placement support provided for quality outcome.

Wages pending under MGNREGA

†1711. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wage payments of close to ₹ 10,588 crore are pending under MGNREGA, the main programme to counter extreme rural distress in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for timely payments of MGNREGA wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) As per the Programme Management Information System (MIS), for details of delayed payment to MGNREGA workers for the Financial Year 2016-17 refer to statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 1707 Part (a) and (b). The Ministry has released ₹ 16023.10 crore to States/UTs during the current Financial Year 2016-17 (as on 26.04.2016) for liquidating the pending liability of wage component of Financial Year 2015-16 and for running the performance during Financial Year 2016-17. Cases of delay in payment of wages in States/UTs have been reported in the Ministry due to following reasons:-

- Internet connectivity for maintaining the programme database (MGNREGA-soft)
- Implementation issues like delay in measurement, inadequate staff, poor spread of banking infrastructure, etc.

(c) In order to ensure timely payment wages, Rules have been issued for timely payment of wages under which, it was suggested that clear accountability shall be fixed on the functionaries for timely performance of specific duties leading to payment

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of wages. All cases of delayed payment attract compensation @ 0.05% per day of delay, which is automatically calculated and paid by the State Government.

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. The Central Government has also started National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 11 States (Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and launched dashboard for tracking of pending Fund Transfer Orders, Public Fund Management System, Workers Module, Electronic Fund Management System, Direct Benefit Transfer etc.

World Bank Credit for Neeranchal National Watershed Project

1712. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government and the World Bank have signed \$178.50 million credit agreement for Neeranchal National Watershed Project to improve the watershed management in rural rainfed areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project so signed would also support the watershed activities of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana in Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details of intended beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (d) The Government has signed a technical assistance project with the World Bank, named 'Neeranchal' National Watershed Project to support the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The total outlay of the project is ₹ 2142.3 crore (\$ 357 million) out of which 50% amount shall be provided as long term loan by the World Bank. The Project shall be implemented from 2016-17 to 2021-22, in the Department of Land Resources and 9 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana. Neeranchal will provide support to various components of PMKSY, in particular the Watershed Development component, through technical assistance to improve incremental conservation outcomes and agricultural yields in a sustainable manner for farming communities. In Jharkhand, the project will directly benefit 50 projects of about 5000 ha. each in addition to impacting the 9.11 lakh ha. under 171 IWMP projects.