

Sl. No.	State	No. of districts/talukas
Financial Year 2016-17 (Status as on 11.07.2016)		
1.	Karnataka	62 taluks of 12 districts
2.	Madhya Pradesh	268 tehsils of 42 districts
3.	Rajasthan	14487 villages of 19 districts
4.	Uttar Pradesh	08 districts
5.	Uttarakhand	07 districts

Fall in women MGNREGA workers in Puducherry

113. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that women households provided with employment under MGNREGA in Puducherry has been coming down from 43,000 in 2011-12 to 19,000 in 2014-15 and also person days during the same period have reduced from 10.79 days to 2.15 days; and

(b) the details of remedial measures being taken to increase the mandays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) The number of households provided employment as demanded by job card holders under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was 43,000 during 2011-12 and 30,000 in 2014-15.

The number of persondays generated were 10.79 lakh in 2011-12 and 3.26 lakhs in 2014-15.

MGNREGA is a demand-driven wage employment programme. Not less than 100 days of employment are provided to registered workers upon receipt of their demand. The number of days of employment provided to a household depends on the number of days of employment demanded by the household. MGNREGA provides a supplementary means of livelihood for the rural people, primarily during their lean periods and is not a substitute for all other employment opportunities. Members of the household are free to avail other available employment opportunities in addition to the 100 days of guaranteed wage employment per household provided on demand under the Act.

(b) To generate awareness about the provisions of the Scheme and to provide adequate employment opportunities to rural households under MGNREGA, all States/UTs including Puducherry have been requested for the following:-

- (i) Initiate appropriate IEC campaigns including wall paintings for wide dissemination of the provisions of the Act.
- (ii) Expand scope and coverage of demand registration system to ensure that demand for work under MGNREGA does not go unregistered.
- (iii) Organize 'Rozgar Diwas' periodically to capture latent demand under the programme and to disseminate awareness about the provisions of the Act.

Reduction in wasteland in Andhra Pradesh

114. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has reduced its wasteland area compared to the last five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, for the last five years and for what purpose the land is being used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Wasteland in India has been categorized for identification as culturable and unculturable wasteland. 'Culturable Wasteland' is the land which has potential for the development of vegetative cover but is not being used due to different constraints of varying degrees. 'Unculturable Wasteland' is the land that cannot be developed for vegetative cover, such as barren rocky/stony land and snow covered/glacial area. As per the latest information of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the total extent of culturable wastelands in the 13 districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh has reduced from 476349 hectare in 2009-10 to 391500 hectare in 2013-14, Details are given in Statement-I (*See* below). The change analysis of wasteland in India was last carried out based on temporal satellite data of 2005-06 and 2008-09, and published in the Wastelands Atlas of India 2011, according to which there was a decrease in all categories of wasteland in the 13 districts now comprising the State of Andhra Pradesh from 26048.86 sq. km. in 2005-06 to 25034.59 sq. km. in 2008-09, Details given in Statement-II (*See* below). The recovered area is *inter-alia* being used for afforestation, cultivation, and for soil and water conservation activities.