

Minimum days of wages under MGNREGA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that only 46 days of work is being provided per employed household on an average over the last three years, against the promised 100 days of work under the legislation;

(b) if so, the reasons for not ensuring 100 days employment as promised by Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that constant under-funding of MGNREGA, the rural employment guarantee scheme, is leading to low employment generation on the ground; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Governments' response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) to (d) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The demand for work itself is influenced by various factors such as rain-fall pattern, availability of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA and prevailing unskilled wage rates.

The Ministry has increased the budget provision for MGNREGS over the years. During FY 2017-18, ₹ 55000 crore has been allocated for MGNREGS, which is highest ever budget allocation since inception of the Programme. Further, fund release to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed in making funds available keeping in view the demand for work. The Ministry releases funds to the States based on the basis of the agreed to Labour Budget, opening balance, pending liabilities of the previous year for the financial year, if any, and overall performance. For timely release of funds, the Ministry has taken steps to streamline the process of planning of realistic Labour Budget, timely release of funds, Ne-FMS etc. It has issued guidelines on Labour Budget planning with three checklists to the States/UTs to ensure that the documents prepared and submitted by the States/UTs are in order.