

**Delay in MGNREGA payments**

276. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is an inordinate delay in payment of MGNREGA wages, which is causing hardships to workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted in this direction and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the remedial measures being taken by Government to expedite the payments to usher confidence among the workers under MGNREGA scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ministry along with the States/UTs has been making concerted efforts for improving the timely payment of wages. States/UTs have been advised to generate pay orders in time. This has resulted in considerable improvement in the status of timely generation of pay order and leading to improvement in actual time taken to credit wages in the workers account. During the current financial year 2017-18 (as on 31.01.2018), 85.53% (as on 31.01.2018) pay orders have been generated within 15 days. The delay in payment of wages are due to implementation issues in the States which include inadequate staffing, non-timely recording and reporting of attendance, measurement, data entry, generation of wage list, Fund Transfer Order (FTO), Public Financial Management System and Banks/Post offices related issues etc.

(c) State Government of Rajasthan has recently commissioned a study titled "End to End Analysis on Delay Payment under MGNREGA" through Rajasthan Grameen Ajeevika Vikas Parishad (RAJEEVIKA). The study covered sample of 10 blocks in Rajasthan and identified various reasons for delay in payments which included vacant staff positions at block and Gram Panchayat level, frequent transfer of BDOs, lack of adequate infrastructure at block level etc.

(d) Efforts have been made by the Ministry to reduce the delay in payment of wages to the MGNREGA workers viz., timely release of funds, payment through National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) for direct payment of wages into workers account, issued guidelines for monitoring of timely payment and payment of delay compensation, enabling appropriate provisions in NREGASoft to monitor timely payment of wages and payment of delay compensation. The Ministry is in

constant engagement with the State Governments/UTs through review meetings, video conferences, Mid-Term Review, SMS based monitoring etc.

**Delay in release of daily labour wages in MGNREGA**

277. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total daily wage labour dues pending under MGNREGA to be released to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as on date;
- (b) the reasons for delay in release of labour wage dues; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for early release of pending daily wage labour dues under MGNREGA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ministry along with the States/UTs has been making concerted efforts for improving the timely payment of wages. States/UTs have been advised to generate pay orders in time. This has resulted in considerable improvement in the status of timely generation of pay order and leading to improvement in actual time taken to credit wages in the workers account. During the current financial year 85.75% and 87.91% payments have been generated within 15 days in respect of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (as on 01.02.2018) respectively. The delay in payment of wages is due to implementation issues in the States which include inadequate staffing, non-timely recording and reporting of attendance, measurement, data entry, generation of wage list, Fund Transfer Order (FTO), Public Financial Management System and Banks/Post offices related issues etc.

- (c) Efforts have been made by the Ministry to reduce the delay in payment of wages to the MGNREGA workers viz., timely release of funds, payment through National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) for direct payment of wages into workers accounts, issuance of guidelines for monitoring of timely payment and payment of delay compensation, enabling appropriate provisions in NREGASoft to monitor timely payment of wages and payment of delay compensation. The Ministry is in constant engagement with the State Governments/UTs through review meetings, video conferences, Mid-Term Review, SMS based monitoring etc.

**Geo-tagging of assets of MGNREGA**

278. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: