

Kashmir and Uttarakhand), Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the Desert areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and in Selected Tribal and Backward Districts (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission). The PMGSY permits upgradation (to prescribed standards) of existing rural roads in districts where all the eligible habitations of the designated population size have been provided all weather road connectivity. For most intensive LWE blocks as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs the unconnected habitations with population of 100 and above (as per 2001 Census) would be eligible to be covered under PMGSY.

(c) The status of PMGSY works in Bihar and Samastipur District are as under:—

	Roads and Bridges sanctioned	Roads and Bridges completed	Roads and Bridges in Progress
Bihar	18,436	14,093	4,343
Samastipur	706	563	143

Wages for women under MGNREGA

1880. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the women are paid less wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), State/UT-wise and if so, the details thereof, along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Centre is opposing minimum wages in MGNREGA, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that MGNREGA beneficiaries have come down in 2017-18, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There is no gender based discrimination under Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme.

(b) No, Sir. As per the Section 6 (1) of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005 States that notwithstanding anything contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act. The Ministry has been notifying MGNREGA wage rates from 2010 onwards.

(c) In the Financial Year 2017-18, Labour Budget has been increased to 230.44 crore person days against 220.92 crore in the last Financial Year 2016-17.