

Cash payment to MGNREGS workers

1575. SHRI P. WILSON: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid any compensatory cash payment to the MGNREGS workers across the country, including Tamil Nadu, during the COVID-19 period;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the rate of daily wage under MGNREGS is far less than the current agricultural minimum wage rate, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to increase the daily wage under MGNREGS in equality to the current agricultural minimum wage rate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. This Ministry has not paid any compensatory cash payment to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), workers across the country, including Tamil Nadu, during the COVID-19 period. However, the mandate of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household including Tamil Nadu whose adult member volunteers to do unskilled manual work. As per the Act, wage payment is to be paid against the work done by the beneficiaries.

(c) to (e) As per Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for its beneficiaries. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rate every year for States/UTs. To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers against inflation, the Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rate every year based on change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). The wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each Financial Year. Centrally, this Ministry does not maintain agricultural minimum wage rates in respect of States/UTs. However, each State/UT can provide

wage over and above the wage-rate notified by the Central Government. The wage rate for the States/UTs for the Financial Year 2020-21 was notified on 23rd March, 2020, effecting an increase of ₹20 in average wage rate per day per person from ₹182 of last financial year to ₹202 in the current financial year.

Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan

1576. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of recently launched Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan with an outlay of ₹50,000 crore for migrant labours;

(b) the details of States and districts where the above programme has been launched;

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to extend this scheme to other States, including Karnataka;

(d) the efforts being made by the Ministry to map skills of migrant labours; and

(e) the manner in which the above scheme is different and more beneficial than MGNREGA?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) has been launched on 20th June, 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected citizens in rural area, in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The Abhiyaan adopts a multi-pronged strategy of providing immediate employment and livelihood opportunities to the distressed rural citizens, to saturate the villages with public infrastructure and creation of livelihood assets to boost the income generation activities and enhance long-term livelihood opportunities by giving focus on 25 works in 116 selected districts across 6 States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The duration of the Abhiyaan is 125 days commencing from 20th June, 2020 with a resource envelope of ₹ 50,000 crore. A total of about 29 crore mandays employment have been provided under GKRA so far and a total expenditure of ₹ 26,382 crore has been incurred under GKRA so far. The details of States/Districts where the Abhiyaan is being implemented are given in Statement (*See below*).