

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1422**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

**LAW WAGES FOR MGNREGA WORKERS**

1422 DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for paying starvation level wages of ₹150-250 to the MGNREGA workers inspite of the fact that Central Government has accepted the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission, according to which a minimum wage of ₹ 18000 per month has been fixed for a family to lead a dignified life; and
- (b) the reasons for non-implementation of the recommendations of Nagesh Singh Committee for revision of MGNREGA wage rates by Government using Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Rural Labourers?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): 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). Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wages are paid based on measurement of work done i.e. piece rate basis. Every State has its defined Schedule of Rates on the basis of which the work output is defined and used to calculate the wages for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries. The actual wage payable is calculated based on the output of the worker.

(b): Dr. Nagesh Singh Committee had recommended to used Consumer Price Index – Rural (CPI-R) in place of Consumer Price Index – Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). Recommendation has been accepted by this Ministry. The implementation of Committee Report is on held due to want of relevant information in connection with revision of Base year from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation as well as Ministry of Labour Bureau is awaited.

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