

Regarding matter pertaining to MNREGA

DR. AMAR SINGH (FATEHGARH SAHIB): I thank you, hon. Madam Chairperson for giving the opportunity to speak on a matter of urgent public importance. Madam, today I will raise a matter pertaining to MNREGA. I urge upon the Rural Development Minister to kindly pay attention to what I say. Madam, when the NREGA task force was constituted, I was lucky to be one of its members. I was a bureaucrat at that time and I was part of this task force during its inception. I know everything about its history. Why was this scheme envisaged? It is to provide a safety net for poor people to bail them out of problems. However, in the last 20 years, a lot of technicalities have been enforced for labourers to mark their attendance. This has led to difficulties for these poor people in marking their attendance and getting their due payment. Please ease this and find a solution to this problem. Secondly, the number of days needs to be increased to at least 150 days. Over 20 years have passed. The labourers should get at least Rs. 450 to Rs.500 per day. This is the genuine demand of labourers of Punjab. Thirdly, in Punjab, a lot of politics is taking place in the MNREGA scheme. Only people belonging to a particular Party are being enrolled as MNREGA labourers. I urge upon the Government to please look into this matter. The deserving people should be enrolled as labourers under this scheme. Otherwise, a grave injustice is taking place with poor deserving labourers. This menace should be checked and justice should prevail. Thank you.