

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:83

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2006

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT .

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) The extent of success achieved by the Government in each State in the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);
- (b) The nature of difficulties being faced by the States in implementing the Act.
- (c) Whether various sections of the society, particularly, minorities, women, old and physically challenged have been or are being denied/discouraged registration under it in certain States including Gujarat;
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) Whether the issue of finalization of minimum wages under the Act has since been resolved;
- (f) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) The instances of corruption noticed in various States, if any; and
- (h) The steps taken/to be taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of the Act along with making the public aware of the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (h) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 83 to be answered on 28-7-2006.

(a) A progress report of NREGA is annexed.

(b) States have been requested to provide administrative and technical staff at Panchayat and District levels. Positioning of staff is taking some time.

(c)&(d) The Act does not provide for any discrimination between women, old, physically handicapped and minority communities for getting employment under the schemes made under the Act. Para 6 of Schedule II of the Act instead, provides that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least 1/3rd of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work. However, there had been reports in the newspapers regarding a particular community being denied registration under NREGA in Gujarat State. The complaints were got examined and the State Government of Gujarat has denied any such discrimination between the various sections of the society.

(e)&(f) Section (6)(1) of the NREG Act provides that Central Government may specify the wage rate for the purposes of the Act. Section (6)(2) further provides that until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government, the minimum wage rate fixed by the State Government under Section (3) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered the wage rate under this Act. So far Central Government has not fixed wage rate in respect of any of the States. The wage rate fixed by the various States is applicable for the purposes of NREGA.

(g) A few complaints in the implementation of NREG Act have been reported. The reports have been referred to the concerned States for examination and for taking remedial action. In a complaint received from Government of Madhya Pradesh, two National Level Monitors (NLMs) have been deputed by the Central Government to look into the allegations made.

(h) State Governments have been instructed from time to time by this Ministry for making adequate staff available with the implementing agencies for effective implementation of the Act. NLMs have been appointed by the Central Government for making field visits of the various areas to watch the progress of the Act and submit their reports to the Central Government. Funds have been released to the States for organizing training programmes for the staff working with the implementing agencies. All States have been requested to give wide publicity to the Act. States were asked to organize special meetings of Gram Sabhas on 26th January and 2nd February to create awareness. Handbills, posters, wall writings were suggested in the campaign. Advertisement in TV and newspaper

were also given. The process of creating awareness is still continuing.