

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:352  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2007  
MINIMUM WAGES UNDER NREGS  
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has any mechanism to ensure that no unskilled worker under NREGS gets wages less than that prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to fix wage rate for NREGS; and
- (d) if so, the time by which such notification is likely to be made?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

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

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.352 to be answered on 7.9.2007

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Act has clear provisions to ensure that no unskilled worker under NREGS gets wages less than that prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act. Section 6(2) of the NREGA provides that the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area under NREGA. Para 8 of Schedule I of NREGA provides that the schedule of rates of wages for unskilled labourers shall be so fixed that a person working for seven hours would normally earn a wage equal to the wage rate. The actual wage earned by a worker will depend on the output of the worker. The wages that are paid are to be recorded on the muster rolls and job cards of the workers and these documents are to be made available in the public domain for verification. The Ministry has been regularly monitoring and reviewing the wages and Schedule of Rates applicable to NREGA as fixed by the State Governments.

(c)&(d) No, Sir. Section 6(1) of the NREG Act provides that the Central Government may, by notification, 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 in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to fix a wage rate under NREGA for any of the States. Minimum wages notified for agricultural labourers under Minimum Wages Act by the State Governments are applicable to NREGA.