

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:261
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2007
HIKE IN WAGES UNDER NREGS
Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the amount being paid as wages under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is not the same in all the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to hike the wages being paid thereunder; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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. 261 to be answered on 31.8.2007

(a)& (b) Yes, 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. Central Government has not fixed a wage rate under NREGA for any of the States. Therefore, the minimum wages notified for agricultural labourers under Minimum Wages Act by the State Governments are applicable to NREGA. As such, the wages under NREGA are not the same in all the States. A statement indicating the prevailing minimum wages for agricultural labourers notified by State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and as applicable to NREGA in various States is at Annexure-I.

(c)& (d) Fixation of wage rate under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is within the jurisdiction of the State Governments.