

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:403
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009
WAGES UNDER NREGS
Pandey Saroj;Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the adequacy of the minimum wages being paid in different States under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) whether the Government proposes to link the minimum wages payable to workers under NREGS with the prevailing cost of living level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C. P. JOSHI)

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

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 403 for answer on 31.7.2009

(a) to (d): Wages are paid to the NREGA workers in accordance with the wage rate as provided in Section 6 of the Act. Section 6(1) provides that Central Government may,by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act provided that the wage rate notified by the Centre shall not be less than Rs. 60 per day.

Section 6(2) of NREGA provides that until such time as a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Governments under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be the wage rate applicable to that area.

Central Government notified wage rate for NREGA workers under Section 6(1) of the Act on 1.1.2009 which takes into account the wage rate fixed by the respective State Governments under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers. Prior to this date, wages were paid to the NREGA workers in accordance with Section 6(2) of NREG Act. Prevailing wage rates as notified by the Central Government under NREGA are given in Annexure-I.