

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2312

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014

ASSESSMENT UNDER MGNREGS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any in depth study/assessment by Government or any other agency on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been done;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(c) whether MGNREGS has succeeded in eradicating poverty in the rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a)&(b) The Ministry of Rural Development had engaged Institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) and other professional institutions to conduct studies and surveys on the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Some major findings of such studies related to impact of MGNREGA works are:

(i) Increase in Agriculture wages and enhanced bargaining power of rural poor. (ii) Creation of environmental friendly jobs. (iii) Reduction in soil erosion and enhancement in soil organic matter (iv) Improvement in ground water table, agricultural productivity and cropping intensity. (v) Reduction in water vulnerability index, agriculture vulnerability, livelihood vulnerability (vi) Reduction in distress migration.

(c) MGNREGA is a demand-driven wage employment programme which provides not less than 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household for doing unskilled manual work. On an average, 5 crore rural households have been provided with wage employment each year under MGNREGA since 2008-09. Further, a cumulative of 1,728.91 crore person days of wage employment have been generated as on 22.7.2014 under the Act. As far as provision of wage employment in rural areas and absorption of rural casual labour are concerned, MGNREGA has successfully ensured wage guarantee to all willing rural households and has positively facilitated livelihood generation and poverty reduction in rural areas.