

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:903
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2014
SAPLING WORK UNDER MGNREGS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the proposal received from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to plant trees along the National Highways under rural job guarantee scheme so as to provide job to the jobless youth in the country;
- (b) the extent to which the target of employment generation will be achieved by implementing this proposal;
- (c) whether the works carried out under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are being reviewed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the MGNREGS?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a)&(b) Vide letter No.11017/17/2008-NREGA(UN) (Pt-II) dated 31.7.2014 plan of action with a model estimate was communicated to the States for road side tree plantation along National Highways and PMGSY roads under MGNREGA. In the said Plan of action, it was stated that the National Highways for plantations will be identified by NHAI. The road side plantation under this Plan on National Highways shall be implemented in convergence with NHAI, where material component of estimate would be contributed by NHAI by depositing the same with the State Employment Guarantee Fund under MGNREGA.

The model estimate conveyed to States for plantation and maintenance of 200 plants for five years by each eligible household with details of person days to be generated and work estimates is annexed.

(c)& (d) Works undertaken under (MGNREGA) are periodically reviewed in labour budget meetings, performance review meetings and regional reviews meetings.

(e) The major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA are as follows:

At least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

The wage-material ratio for works taken up by agencies other than Gram Panchayats would be counted at the district level to facilitate taking more durable assets.

The associated outcomes of each work would be estimated before taking up the work and the same would be measured after completion of the work-thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.

The quality of the assets is sought to be improved through better planning and closer technical supervision.

States/UTs have been asked to operationalize the provision relating to compensation for delayed wage payments as per Para-29, Schedule II of MGNREGA 2005.

States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social audits of MGNREGS works in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tempering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced.

For smooth fund flow, the electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) has been introduced which would also reduce delays in payment of wages.

All States have been requested to appoint Ombudsman at the district level for grievance redressal.

The Ministry has established a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for MGNREGA, which, inter alia, include visits of Area Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors and Vigilance & Monitoring Committee meetings at the State/ District levels.

To facilitate states to engage technical assistants/barefoot engineers for better technical planning and supervision of works under MGNREGA, guidelines have been issued to allow their establishment cost as a part of material cost of works instead of administrative cost.

Formulation of State Convergence Plan in 21 States.