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Title: Need to enhance the wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

SHRI MANICKA TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): The UPA Government is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of employment with guaranteed wage in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. This is one of the dream projects of the Union Government. This project has been appreciated and vastly welcomed by all sections of the society and being implemented in States.

At present the wage rate payable to unskilled manual workers working in various schemes under MGNREGA is very low. The consumer price index for agriculture labour is increasing every year and people are unable to cope with this income. So, I urge upon the Union Government to increase wage rate from the present rate of Rs. 135/- for the benefit of the rural poor people.