

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1912
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION UNDER MGNREGA

1912. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN:

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that budgetary allocation for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was much lower than the amount spent in 2018-19;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there has been an increasing demand for jobs under the said Act;
- (d) if so, whether Government is considering to increase the number of days under the said scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a)&(b): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment programme. Fund release to States/UTs under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a continuous and dynamic process and Central Government is committed to making funds available keeping in view the demand for work. The Ministry seeks additional fund for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground. In the Financial Year 2018-19, a budget provision of Rs.55,000 crore was made. However, due to increase in demand, the budget allocation was subsequently enhanced to Rs. 61,830.09 crore. As per the information uploaded by the States/UTs in the Management Information System (MIS), the total expenditure in the Financial Year 2018-19 was Rs.69,625.01 crore which includes Central share as well as the State share releases.

(c)to(e): In the Financial Year 2017-18, a total of 233.74 crore persondays were generated which increased to 267.97 crore in the Financial Year 2018-19. During the FY 2019-20 (as on 02.03.2020), 234.34 crore Persondays have already been generated under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in addition to being a demand driven wage employment programme, provides livelihood security i.e., fall back option for livelihood for the rural households when no better employment opportunity is available. At present, there is no proposal to provide additional working days over and above the guaranteed 100 days as provided in the Act. However, an additional 50 days of wage employment is provided over and above 100 days in the notified drought affected areas or natural calamity affected areas in the country on recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
