GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2865
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

DECLINE IN DEMAND FOR JOBS UNDER MGNREGA

2865 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decline in demand for jobs under the MGNREGA over the last three months;
(b) if not, the reason the allocation for MGNREGA was slashed by 34.5 per cent as compared to the Revised Estimate for 2020-21; and
(c) the alternate plans for providing employment to the people in rural areas available with Government, despite reducing the allocation for MGNREGA?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment programme which provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The number of households who demanded work in the last three months of financial year (FY) 2020-21 under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has increased by 40% with reference to the corresponding period of FY 2019-20. The month-wise number of households who demanded work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the last three months of FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 is given below.

Households Demanded Work (in lakh)			
	FY 2019-20	**FY 2020-21**	**Increase**
December	170.50	265.23	56%
January	188.93	263.05	39%
February	222.68	286.67	29%
Total	**582.12**	**814.94**	**40%**

(b) & (c) The Government of India has allocated Rs. 73,000 crore as Budget Estimate (BE) for next FY 2021-22 for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA with an increase of Rs. 11,500 crore (18.69%) as compared to Budget Estimate for FY 2020-21.

Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act 2005 entitles hundred days of guaranteed wage employment to every rural households in a financial year whose adult members agree to do unskilled manual work. Additionally, the Act also provides for additional 50 days of unskilled wage employment in a financial year in drought/ natural calamity notifies rural areas. As per Section 3(4) of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005, the State Governments may make provisions for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds. Further, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment programme and Central Government is committed to making funds available to the States/ UTs for the implementation of the Scheme. The Ministry seeks additional fund for the Scheme as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground. During the FY 2020-21, the Government enhanced the B.E. of Rs. 61,500 crore to Rs. 1,11,500 crore for better implementation of the Scheme.

Further, there are two skill development programmes for rural poor youth under DAY-NRLM, namely, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs). Both these schemes are aimed at increasing employability of rural poor youth either for wage or self-employment. After unlock orders and opening of training centres, under DDU-GKY a total of 20946 candidates have been trained and 44338 candidates have been placed in jobs during the current financial year 2020-21 (upto February, 2021). Under RSETI a total of 203643 candidates have been trained and 127108 candidates have been settled during the current Financial Year 2020-21(up to February, 2021).

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention of Government of India to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network. A study on Impact of PMGSY roads on accessibility was done by BITS, Pilani, the findings of which suggests that the PMGSY roads have provided new opportunities of employment in nearby urban areas where people can commute daily.

To pursue the objective of 'Housing for All by 2022' the erstwhile rural housing scheme Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) has been restructured into Pradhan Mantari Awaas Yojana-G (PMAY-G) with effect from 1st April 2016. The target under PMAY-G is construction of 2.95 crore pucca houses with basic amenities for eligible rural households by March, 2022. As per the framework of Implementation of PMAY-G, it is mandatory to provide support of 90 person-days (95 person-days in hilly states, difficult areas and IAP districts) unskilled wage employment at the current rates to a PMAY-G beneficiaries for construction of his/her house in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

The implementation of PMGSY and PMAY-G generates direct and indirect employment in rural areas of the country.

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