

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2031
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2022

REDUCED ALLOCATION UNDER MGNREG SCHEME IN KERALA

2031 SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allocated in labour budget for 6.5 crores man-days only to Kerala while achievement of previous year was 10.05 crores man-days of work in the State;
- (b) if so, the reasons for significant reduction in labour budget allocation for MGNREG scheme in the State;
- (c) quantum of pending payments towards material costs under MGNREG scheme works in the State as on date;
- (d) details of arrears of wage payments to beneficiaries of MGNREG scheme in the State as on date; and
- (e) whether wages being paid to beneficiaries of MGNREG scheme are at par with minimum wages for corresponding works?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven Scheme. In the previous financial year 2021-22, a total of 10.59 crore person-days were generated under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the State of Kerala.

In the current financial year 2022-23, the “agreed to” Labour Budget of State of Kerala under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is 6 crore. This Labour Budget is an indicative number for better planning so that work can be provided against demand on time. However, the State may always come up with a proposal for the revision of the Labour Budget, at any point of time of the financial year, if the performance of the State exceeds the "agreed to" Labour Budget.

(c): In the current financial year 2022-23 (as on 27.07.2022) the pending liability for material component under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for the State of Kerala is 76.56 crore.

(d): There is no pending Fund Transfer Order (FTO) for wage component under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for the State of Kerala as on 27.07.2022.

(e): As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) the Central Government may by notification specify the wage rate for unskilled work for its beneficiaries. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rate for every financial year for States/UTs. To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers against inflation, the Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rate every financial year based on change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). The index is different for different States/UTs as notified by Labour Bureau, Shimla. If the calculated wage rate of any State/UT is coming lower than the wage rate of previous financial year, it is being protected by maintaining the previous financial year wage rate. The wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year.
