

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 115
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2022

NATIONAL MOBILE MONITORING SOFTWARE (NMMS) FOR MGNREGA

115 SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is mandatory for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) mates to have a smartphone for collecting attendance of workers;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to collect attendance where mates do not have smartphones;
- (c) whether the NMMS App provides for wages on a time-rate basis rather than on a piecerate basis, and if so, reasons therefor;
- (d) whether MGNREGA has become more inaccessible to rural women workers, given their inaccessibility to either smartphones or digital literacy; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to ensure greater accessibility to the large section of workers who do not have smartphones?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): To ensure more transparency in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) in the States/UTs, a provision for capturing of attendance at worksite through National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App, with geo-tagged time stamped photographs of the workers, has been started from 21st May 2021, where ever muster rolls are issued for 20 or more workers. This increases citizen oversight of the programme besides potentially enabling faster processing of payments. The wages are required to be paid on task basis, however, attendance is also captured under the Scheme.

There is a widespread availability of smartphones in the rural areas. As per Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2021 of ASER Centre, which reported that 67.7% surveyed rural households have at least one smartphone. Similar data has been reported by other agencies. Thus, it is not a major bottleneck.

(d) & (e): Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment scheme which provides 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.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, requires that priority be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries be women. Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a gender neutral programme which promotes participation of women by providing wage parity with men, provision of separate schedule of rates of wages for women, facilities for crèche, work-side sheds for children, and child care services. In convergence with National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), women mates have also been introduced, which again facilitate the participation of women. The Scheme also endeavours to provide works near the residence of the beneficiaries.

The rate of participation of women (women person-days out of total in percentage) in Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last three financial years and current financial year 2022-23 (as on 01.12.2022) is given below:

Financial Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Women participation rate (%)	54.78%	53.19%	54.71%	55.75%
