

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1695**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2022

**INCREASING DEMAND OF WORK UNDER MGNREGA**

1695 DR. AMEE YAJNIK:  
SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:  
DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether MGNREGA is estimated to provide employment to more than 70 million households in FY23, indicating that overall economic development has still not reached in rural and unorganized sectors of the country;
- (b) whether 15.5 million households have applied for jobs through MGNREG scheme in October 2022 as compared to the pre-Covid month of October 2019;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether only 25,056 people have been trained against the target of 2 lakh under Unnati initiative to reduce dependence on MGNREG scheme; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by Government to address the issue?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (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.

In current financial year 2022-23 (as on 15.12.2022), a total of 538.04 lakh households have availed employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Details of the households demanded employment in the month of October, 2019 and October, 2022 is given below:

Period	October, 2019	October, 2022
Households demanded employment (in lakh)	129.18	155.45

**It provides livelihood security, i.e. fall back options for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available.**

(d) & (e): The Government of India has launched “Project UNNATI” in December 2019 which intends to upgrade the skill-base of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) workers, and thereby improve their livelihoods, so that they can move from the current partial employment to full employment through either self employment or wage employment. The Project aims to enhance the skill base of 2 lakh Mahatma Gandhi NREGS beneficiaries.

The slow pace of implementation of the “Project UNNATI” at the State level is being regularly reviewed by the Ministry with the State Rural Livelihood Missions of the concerned States. The issue, if any, comes to the notice of this Ministry is addressed immediately. So far, 27,383 (as on 30.11.2022) candidates have been trained.

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