GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1711
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/03/2023

DIFFICULTIES UNDER ABPS & NMMS

1711   SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Ministry's circular dated 30 January, 2023 about mandatory payments through Aadhaar Based payment System (ABPS) mean that the present "account-based" payment option available is discontinued;
(b)   whether the Ministry is aware that as per its own data (MIS Report 1.1.9), only 43% of MGNREGA workers and 64% of active MGNREGA workers are "eligible for ABPS";
(c)   if ABPS payments are compulsory then how are other workers to be paid; and
(d)   whether it is a fact that by insisting on National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App, most workers have lost wages owing to technical glitches in the app and non-availability of smartphones?

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

(a) to (c)   Government of India has requested States to ensure Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS) payment for the beneficiaries coming for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) works. As per NREGASoft, 47% of total Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers are ABPS enabled and 67% of active workers are ABPS enabled. States have been requested whosoever is coming for wage employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS; the payment should be made through ABPS.

However, as per the request made by several States, it has been decided by the Ministry that till 31st March, 2023, the wage payment of the beneficiaries may be made either using ABPS or NACH depending upon the status on ABPS of a beneficiary. Thus, there may be two options to be used for making wage payment as under:-

Option 1- ABPS: if a beneficiary is ABPS enabled, the payment will be made through ABPS only.

Option 2- NACH: In case due to some technical reasons etc, the beneficiary is not enabled for ABPS, the Programme Officer can choose NACH as the mode for making wage payment.

(d):   No Sir. The Ministry has decided that States/UTs shall ensure capturing of attendance for all the works (except individual beneficiary scheme/project) through National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App from 1st January, 2023.

Worksites supervisors are responsible for capturing the attendance of workers through NMMS App.

NMMS App has been modified to capture second photograph just after the 4 hours from capturing the morning attendance along with first photograph. The morning attendance along with the first photograph and the second photograph can be captured in offline mode also and to be uploaded once device comes in network areas.

In case of exceptional circumstances due to which attendance could not be uploaded, the District Programme Coordinator (DPC) has been authorized to approve the manual attendance.

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