

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2506**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/03/2023

**WAGE DISPARITY IN MGNREGS**

2506 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the wage rate being provided under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is far below than the market rate in several States;
- (b) whether Government is aware that according to a report the women are facing troubles in applying to work under MGNREGS due to complexity in application process;
- (c) the amount of the MGNREGS dues that were pending for the State of Punjab in the financial year 2021-22 and 2022-23; and
- (d) whether the Union Government has taken any steps for participation of new work force and to bridge the wage disparity?

**ANSWER**

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

(a), (b) & (d): As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, 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's wage rate. The wage rate is made applicable from the 1st of April of each financial year. However each State/UT can provide wages over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand-driven wage employment scheme. The households can register themselves under the Act and seek employment at multiple fora including the Gram Panchayats. The field authorities have been instructed to initiate appropriate Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns and organize Rojgar Diwas at least once every month for covering willing unskilled labourers.

As per the Para 15 of Schedule-II of the Act, “Priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work. Efforts to increase participation of single women and the disabled shall be made”.

The rate of participation of women (women person-days out of the total in percentage) in Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last three financial years and current financial year 2022-23 (as on 18.03.2023) is given below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Women participation rate (%)	54.78	53.19	54.81	57.24

(As per NREGASoft)

(c): There is no pending liability for wage component in respect of State of Punjab under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS as on 17.03.2023.

The pending liability towards material component is Rs 52 crore in respect of Punjab under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the current financial year 2022-23 (as on 17.03.2023).

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