

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3782
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/04/2023

AADHAAR BASED PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR MGNREGS WORKERS

3782. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:
SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any rationale for implementing ABPS (Aadhaar Based Payment System) when only 43 per cent of MGNREGS workers are eligible for ABPS presently; and
- (b) the rationale behind applying Section 7 of Aadhaar, which recognizes individuals eligible for receiving subsidies, benefits or services from Government, to MGNREGS, which is neither a service, subsidy or benefit?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) After final Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Writ Petition (Civil) No.494, wherein the Hon'ble Court has further clarified the interpretation of Section 7 of the Original Aadhaar Act, the matter was taken up with the UIDAI to clarify as to whether Aadhaar is required to avail the wage employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) which has mandate under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005. UIDAI clarified that the benefit provided under the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005 (in the nature of wage and employment) can be validly brought under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016. Government of India issued a Notification dated 3rd January, 2017 vide which Aadhar was made mandatory for all beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Aadhaar Based Payment system (ABPS) has therefore been made mandatory w.e.f. 1st Feb, 2023. However, as per the request made by several State Governments, it was decided by the Ministry that till 31st March, 2023, the wage payment of the beneficiaries may be made either using ABPS or through the existing system of Account-based payment.
