

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1545
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

REVISION OF WAGES AND WORK DAYS IN MGNREGS

1545 SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:
SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering the revision of wages being paid under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in view of inflation and rise in wages in all sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to enhance the working days under MGNREGS, yielding to persistent demands from all quarters; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): 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 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 wage rate. The wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year. However State Governments can provide wage over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

(c) & (d): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, is an Act to provide 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 addition to this, there is a provision for up to additional 50 days of wage employment in a financial year in drought/natural calamity affected notified rural areas. As per Section 3 (4) of the Act, the State Governments may make provision for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.
