

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1553  
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

**WAGES UNDER MGNREG SCHEME**

1553 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the current wage rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Punjab;
- (b) the details of the measures taken to ensure fair and timely payment of wages to MGNREGA workers in Punjab;
- (c) the reason for the reported delays and discrepancies in wage payment;
- (d) the reason for reduction of the budget allocated to the scheme; and
- (e) the data on how much wage rates has been increased under the MGNREG Scheme in Punjab for last five years?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): The notified wage rate of unskilled workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) in financial year 2023-24 for the State of Punjab is Rs. 303.
- (b): The Ministry has taken various steps to ensure timely payment of wages to workers under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. These include:
  - (i) Upscaling of National Electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS) in 27 States and 3 Union Territories.
  - (ii) Intensive consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders to strategize timely payment of wages, verification of pending compensation claims etc.
  - (iii) Formulation of Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring of timely payment and payment of compensation.
  - (iv) Review meetings through video conferences with States/ UTs for reviewing the status of timely payment and payment of delay compensation.
  - (v) States/UT's have been requested to ensure timely regeneration of rejected transaction and every fund release is tagged with priority release of rejected transaction.
  - (vi) States have been requested to ensure correction of invalid accounts as per information provided by PFMS.

(c): In the financial year 2023-24 (as on 28.07.2023), 97.17 % Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) are generated within 15 days from the closure of muster rolls in the State of Punjab under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

As per the provision of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the beneficiaries are entitled to get wage payment within 15 days from the closure of Muster Roll of the work. The Ministry has made concerted efforts to reduce delays in payment of wages. A Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) on timely payment process for direct payment into the account of beneficiaries was issued and its implementation by the States/ UTs is being monitored on a regular basis. In addition, use of platforms such as PFMS/NeFMS has enabled real-time monitoring of the payments.

(d): The details of financial allocation at Budget Estimate (BE) stage and Revised Estimate (RE) stage under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for financial year 2022-23 and current financial year 2023-24 (as on 27.07.2023) are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

SI. No.	Financial Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate
1	2022-23	73,000.00	89,400.00
2	2023-24	60,000.00	-

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand-driven wage employment Scheme. Funds release to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to making funds available to States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme as per the demand for work on the ground.

The Ministry seeks additional funds under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS from the Ministry of Finance as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground.

(e): The notified wage rate of unskilled workers for the State of Punjab under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for last five financial years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 is given below:

State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Punjab [In Rs.]	240	241	263	269	282

\*\*\*