

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1418
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/08/2024

INCREASING WORK DAYS UNDER MGNREGA

1418 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to increase the minimum number of guaranteed workdays to 150 days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(MGNREGA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the potential benefits that will accrue out of the enhancement;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the challenges being faced in this regard; and
- (e) the details of other such measures being taken or proposed to be taken to increase rural employment?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

(a)to(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.

There is no plan to increase the minimum guaranteed days in a year to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. However, there is a provision for providing an additional 50 days of wage employment (beyond the stipulated 100 days) to every Scheduled Tribe Household in a forest area, provided that these households have no other private property except for the land rights provided under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

In addition to this, there is a provision for up to an 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.

(e): Multiple steps have been taken by the Government to create employment opportunities in rural areas. Some of the notable initiatives are listed below:

(i) Project 'UNNATI', launched in December 2019 by Government of India, is a skilling project that intends to upgrade the skill base of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) workers, and thereby improve their livelihoods so that they can move from the current partial employment to full employment.

(ii) There are two skill development programmes for rural youth under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), namely, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs). Both these programmes are aimed at increasing the employability of rural youth, either for wage employment or self-employment.

(iii) Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) under the DAY-NRLM programme supports the Self-Help Groups and their family members to set up small enterprises in the non-farm sector.

(iv) The Ministry has launched the Rural Mason Training (RMT) program under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) to address the issue of insufficient number of skilled masons for the construction of quality PMAY-G houses. The initiative additionally generates livelihood opportunities for the rural workforce.
