

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 624
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26/07/2024

INCREASING MGNREGA WORKDAYS

624 SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that State Governments ask for 50 days of work, in addition to guaranteed 100 days, in case of exigencies arising from natural calamities;
- (b) whether Government has received any communication from MPs and public representatives to revise number of working days in their States to 150;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, including instances of acceptance and instances of rejection;
- (d) whether Government has considered uniformly allowing 150 work days across the country due to economic challenges in wake of COVID-19; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Yes. In exercise of the provisions under Section 3(4) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, the provision has been made by Central Government to provide up to additional 50 days of unskilled manual work in a financial year, over and above the 100 days assured to job card holders in such rural areas where drought or any natural calamity (as per Ministry of Home Affairs) has been notified. The notification to provide up to additional 50 days of unskilled manual work, over and above 100 days in drought or natural calamity notified rural areas, is issued by the Ministry of Rural Development as recommended by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

During the financial year 2023-24, this Department had received requests from State Government of Karnataka and State Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing an additional 50 days of unskilled manual work over and above 100 days per household in that financial year under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in such rural areas where drought or a natural calamity was notified under relevant state regulations. While Karnataka had made request for 223 blocks of 31 Districts, Andhra Pradesh for 102 Mandals of 7 Districts. Here it may be mentioned that during the financial year 2023-24, only 6.874 lakh Households completed 100 days of work out of 46.549 lakhs Households availed employment in State of Andhra Pradesh. In case of State of Karnataka, only 0.436 lakh Households have completed 100 days of work out of 29.977 lakhs Households availed employment during the financial year 2023-24.

(d) & (e): As per existing provision under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA save as otherwise provided, the State Government shall, in such rural area in the State as may be notified by the Central Government, provide to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work not less than one hundred days of such work in a financial year in accordance with the scheme made under this Act. There is no proposal with the Ministry for providing 150 days of employment in all States and UTs.
