

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3012
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2024

ENHANCEMENT OF WAGES AND WORKING DAYS UNDER MGNREGA

3012 SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to enhance the working days and wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme;
- (b) the wages given by each State under MGNREGA scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount allotted to Kerala under the scheme in last five years including arrears, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the workers under MGNREGA scheme will be covered under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) provides for 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. Further, the Ministry mandates the provision of 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 providing upto 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 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, the State Governments may make provision for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.

(b): Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, provides that 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 financial year based on change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). State/Union Territories –wise notified wage rates for unskilled workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS from current FY 2024-25 are at **Annexure**.

(c): Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand-driven wage employment scheme. There is no State/UT-wise (including Kerala) allocation of funds under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Details of funds released to the State of Kerala under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the last five financial years from 2019-20 to the current financial year 2024-25 (as on 16.12.2024) are given below:

Financial Years	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Central fund released to the State of Kerala (Rs. in crore)	3,520.17	4,286.78	3,551.93	3,818.43	3,513.48	2,938.29

In the beginning of every financial year, due and admissible pending liabilities if any of the previous financial year are reimbursed by the Government of India to concerned States/UTs. Accordingly, due and admissible pending liability up to FY 2023-24 has been released.

(d): Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment Scheme which provides 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. It is not a regular/contractual employment but a fall back option for livelihood for rural households when no better employment opportunity is available. Workers under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS are not covered under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme.

Annexure referred in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3012 dated 20.12.2024.

State/UT-wise wage rates for unskilled workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for the current financial year 2024-25. (in Rs.)			
Sl. No.	State/UT	2024-25	
1	Andhra Pradesh	300	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	234	
3	Assam	249	
4	Bihar	245	
5	Chhattisgarh	243	
6	Goa	356	
7	Gujarat	280	
8	Haryana	374	
9	Himachal Pradesh (Non-Scheduled Areas)	236	
	Himachal Pradesh (Scheduled Areas)	295	
10	Jammu And Kashmir	259	
11	Ladakh	259	
12	Jharkhand	245	
13	Karnataka	349	
14	Kerala	346	
15	Madhya Pradesh	243	
16	Maharashtra	297	
17	Manipur	272	
18	Meghalaya	254	
19	Mizoram	266	
20	Nagaland	234	
21	Odisha	254	
22	Punjab	322	
23	Rajasthan	266	
24	Sikkim	249	
	Sikkim (Three Gram Panchayats named Gnathang, Lachung and Lachen)	374	
25	Tamil Nadu	319	
26	Telangana	300	
27	Tripura	242	
28	Uttar Pradesh	237	
29	Uttarakhand	237	
30	West Bengal	250	
31	Andaman and Nicobar	Andaman District	329
		Nicobar District	347
32	Dn Haveli & Daman & Diu	324	
33	Lakshadweep	315	
34	Puducherry	319	
