

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3333**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/03/2025

**IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGA FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION**

3333 SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the last five years;
- (b) whether there has been a reduction in work demand under the scheme, and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the measures taken to improve wage payments and reduce delays under MGNREGA; and
- (d) whether there are any plans to expand the scope of MGNREGA to cover urban employment?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): Year-wise details of workers who availed of employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) during the last five financial years are given below:

Financial Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Workers who availed employment (in crore)	7.88	11.19	10.61	8.75	8.34

As per NREGASoft.

(b): 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 provides livelihood security, i.e. a fallback option for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available. During the financial year 2022-23, a total of 293.7 crorepersondays were generated. This number saw an increase in the following year, with 308.67 crorepersondays generated in 2023-24.

(c): Fund release to the States/Union Territories is a continuous process, and the Central Government is committed to making funds available to States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme as per demand for work on the ground.

As per the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the beneficiaries are entitled to get wage payment within 15 days of closure of the Muster Roll of the work. The Government of India has also issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to the States to ensure timely wage payment. The Ministry in coordination with the States/UTs has been making concerted efforts to improve the timely payment of wages. States/UTs have been advised to generate pay orders in time. The Ministry has taken various steps to ensure timely payment of wages to workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). These include:

- (i) Upscaling of National Electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS)
  - (ii) Intensive consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders to strategise 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) During various meetings with States/UTs, which include Meeting for finalisation of Annual Action Plan, Mid-Term Review meeting, Monthly Review Meeting and visit of senior officers to States/UTs, matter regarding the timely payment of wages and payment of delay compensation is regularly reviewed.
- (d): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005 is applicable for rural areas and its implementation in urban areas is beyond the purview of the Act.

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