GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1571
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/08/2025

FUNCTIONING OF MGNREGA

1571 Shri A. A. Rahim:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

(a) total number of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers in the country, State-wise;
(b) total amount of MGNREGA wages pending disbursement by Government as of July 2025, State-wise;
(c) proportion of wage payments cleared within the mandated 15 days over the last three financial years, State-wise;
(d) whether there has been any reduction in central budget allocations for MGNREGA since 2021;
(e) whether the Ministry has assessed the impact of these funding constraints on rural livelihoods, if so, details thereof; and
(f) concrete measures the Ministry proposes to ensure timely wage payments, adequate funding and sustained commitment to employment guarantee?

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

(a): State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of number of registered workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) as on 28.07.2025 is given at **Annexure-I.**

(b): Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand-driven wage employment scheme and fund release is a continuous process. Under the scheme, the wage payments are directly credited by the Central Government to the account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer protocol. Sanctions for wage payments are issued daily by the Ministry through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) based on fund transfer orders received from the States after due procedures.

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of pending liabilities for wage component under Scheme as on 28.07.2025 are given at **Annexure-II.**

(c): States/Union Territories wise details of % of Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) generated within 15 days from the closure of muster rolls under the Scheme during the last three financial years is given at **Annexure-III.**

(d): The details of the budget allocated for the scheme since FY 2021-22 is given below:

SI. No.	Financial Year	Budget Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Revised Estimate (Rs. in crore)
1	2021-22	73000.00	98000.00
2	2022-23	73000.00	89400.00
3	2023-24	60000.00	86000.00
4	2024-25	86000.00	86000.00
5	2025-26 (as on 29.07.2025)	86000.00	-

Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for the FY 2024-25, budget allocation of Rs. 86,000 crore was made, which was the highest ever allocation for scheme at the Budget Estimate (BE) stage since inception. In the FY 2025-26, the Government has retained this allocation at Rs. 86,000 crore, ensuring continued support for rural employment. It may be noted that FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 was exceptional years owing to the impact of Covid 19. Hence, it may not be appropriate to compare the fund allocation made at RE Stage during these two financial years with allocation of subsequent financial years.

Ministry of Rural Development closely monitors the demand for employment at the ground level and seeks additional funds from the Ministry of Finance as and when required. The release of funds is a continuous process, and the Government of India remains committed to providing funds as per actual demand for employment under the scheme. In the Current FY 2025-26 as on 28.07.2025 an amount of Rs 47,567 crore has been released under the scheme out of which Rs.39,595 crore is for payment of wages.

(e): It is to be noted that Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment scheme and eligible rural households are entitled for 100 days of unskilled wage employment on demand. The Government is committed to make sufficient funds available for the scheme as per demand for work on the ground. Accordingly, there is no pending wage liability up to FY 2024-25 (except in case of State of West Bengal).

During the current Financial Year (FY) 2025-26 (as on 28.07.2025), 99.80% of the eligible rural households have been offered employment against who have demanded the employment under the scheme, reflecting effective implementation of the scheme.

(f): As per the provisions of the Act, beneficiaries are entitled to receive wage payments within 15 days of work completion. In order to ensure timely payment, the Government of India has issued a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to all States/UTs, which defines fixed timelines for each stage of the wage payment process—from muster roll uploading to FTO approval. The Ministry along with the States/UTs has been making concerted efforts for improving 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:

- Improvement of National Electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS)
- Intensive consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders for ensuring timely payment of wages, verification of pending and delay compensation claims etc.

- Formulation of Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring of timely payment and payment of delay compensation.
- Reviewing the status of timely payment and payment of delay compensation with the States/ UTs during periodic meetings, Performance Review Committee meetings, Mid-term Reviews etc.

Further, continued efforts have been undertaken by the Ministry through various technological interventions for ensuring timely payments of wages. Some of the key interventions include:

- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Wages are transferred directly from the central account to workers' bank accounts, minimizing the role of intermediaries and reducing fund misappropriation. This has proven to be effective in enhancing transparency and preventing leakages. Almost 100% of the funds are managed electronically with the wage payment made entirely through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) protocol.
- **Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS):** APBS conversion is a major reform process where benefits are credited directly into the bank accounts based on the Aadhaar of the workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, preferably Aadhaar Based Payments, cutting several layers in the delivery process. APBS helps in better targeting, increasing the efficiency of the system and reducing the delays in payments, ensuring greater inclusion by curbing leakages thereby promoting greater accountability and transparency.
- **National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS):** Real-time attendance capture through geo-tagged photographs at the worksite ensures accurate and timely recording of attendance, which helps in timely payment of wages.

*****

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of RajyaSabhaUnstarred Question No. 1571 dated 01.08.2025.

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of number of registered workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS as on 28.07.2025. (Figure in lakh)		
SI. No.	State/Union Territory (UT)	Total number of registered workers
1	Andhra Pradesh	125.26
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4.76
3	Assam	108.83
4	Bihar	266.73
5	Chhattisgarh	81.41
6	Goa	0.52
7	Gujarat	98.4
8	Haryana	26.24
9	Himachal Pradesh	28.66
10	Jharkhand	104.83
11	Karnataka	181.86
12	Kerala	58.17
13	Madhya Pradesh	180.86
14	Maharashtra	326.89
15	Manipur	9.19
16	Meghalaya	12.49
17	Mizoram	2.34
18	Nagaland	6.66
19	Odisha	108.39
20	Punjab	30.29
21	Rajasthan	233.18
22	Sikkim	1.38
23	Tamil Nadu	109.95
24	Telangana	104.4
25	Tripura	12.42
26	Uttar Pradesh	230.59
27	Uttarakhand	15.86
28	West Bengal	256.32
29	Andaman and Nicobar	0.54
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	0.44
31	Jammu and Kashmir	23.98
32	Ladakh	0.51
33	Lakshadweep	0.17
34	Puducherry	1.17
Total		2753.69

(As per NREGASoft)

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of RajyaSabhaUnstarred Question No. 1571 dated 01.08.2025.

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of pending liabilities for wage component under Scheme as on 28.07.2025 (Rs. in crore)		
Sl. No.	States/UTs	Pending liabilities for wage component
1	Andhra Pradesh	1684.39
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.90
3	Assam	132.46
4	Bihar	893.57
5	Chhattisgarh	12.92
6	Goa	0.36
7	Gujarat	4.37
8	Haryana	11.43
9	Himachal Pradesh	4.93
10	Jharkhand	57.76
11	Karnataka	86.89
12	Kerala	280.85
13	Madhya Pradesh	180.70
14	Maharashtra	206.06
15	Manipur	2.43
16	Meghalaya	6.41
17	Mizoram	0.85
18	Nagaland	0.18
19	Odisha	15.23
20	Punjab	103.08
21	Rajasthan	302.06
22	Sikkim	0.02
23	Tamil Nadu	297.24
24	Telangana	456.31
25	Tripura	4.49
26	Uttar Pradesh	694.76
27	Uttarakhand	3.53
28	West Bengal	3,038*
29	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	0.00
31	Jammu & Kashmir	12.69
32	Ladakh	0.45
33	Lakshadweep	0.00
34	Puducherry	11.90

Note: There is no pending liability for previous years for wage component in case of any States/UTs, except in case of State of West Bengal.

* Pending liability in case of State of West Bengal includes wage, material and admin component. Release of fund to the State of West Bengal has been stopped since 9th March, 2022 as per provision of section 27 of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 due to non compliance with directives of Central Government.

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of RajyaSabhaUnstarred Question No. 1571 dated 01.08.2025.

States/Union Territories wise details of % of Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) generated within 15 days from the closure of muster rolls under the Scheme during the last three financial years.

SI. No.	States/UTs	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andhra Pradesh	98.27	99.99	100
2	Arunachal Pradesh	73.62	79.36	86.93
3	Assam	97.76	99	99.68
4	Bihar	96.27	98.32	97.41
5	Chhattisgarh	76.52	99.87	98.5
6	Goa	78.81	58.5	65.28
7	Gujarat	94.36	99.66	99.83
8	Haryana	85.73	80.96	93.3
9	Himachal Pradesh	93.44	97.99	99.28
10	Jharkhand	99.95	99.99	99.97
11	Karnataka	97.6	99.06	99.4
12	Kerala	92.36	99.22	98.89
13	Madhya Pradesh	98.27	99.78	99.74
14	Maharashtra	90.05	89.67	79.07
15	Manipur	15.29	15.71	26.8
16	Meghalaya	71.97	72.14	82.43
17	Mizoram	92.71	90.2	99.23
18	Nagaland	30.5	60.55	66.59
19	Odisha	99.94	98.67	99.6
20	Punjab	85.22	92.95	94.8
21	Rajasthan	87.28	99.26	99.92
22	Sikkim	90.49	94.24	96.79
23	Tamil Nadu	99.42	100	100
24	Telangana	69.16	99.34	99.9
25	Tripura	97.72	99.75	99.6
26	Uttar Pradesh	94.36	98.44	99.21
27	Uttarakhand	99.83	99.97	99.99
28	West Bengal*	98.19	98.89	0
29	Andaman And Nicobar	16.61	54.43	16.29
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	0	87.6	81.77
31	Jammu And Kashmir	80.58	86.67	90.59
32	Ladakh	71.4	71.36	82.67
33	Lakshadweep	80.88	67.99	0
34	Puducherry	90.28	70.39	84.15
	National Level	**92.49**	**97.86**	**97.12**

(As per NREGASoft)

* Release of fund to the State of West Bengal has been stopped since 9th March, 2022 as per provision of section 27 of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 due to non compliance with directives of Central Government.

*****