

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 782
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25/07/2025

MGNREGA WAGE PAYMENT DELAYS IN BIHAR

782 Shri Manoj Kumar Jha:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has disbursed the full ₹2,102 crore sanctioned for MGNREGA wage payments in Bihar for the current financial year;
- (b) if not, the reasons for delay or shortfall in fund release; and
- (c) the corrective steps that are being taken to ensure timely wage disbursements to rural workers in Bihar, and whether social audit systems or public grievance redressal platforms have been activated in this context?

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b): During the current financial year 2025-26 (as on 20.07.2025) an amount of Rs. 5,709.29 crore has been released towards wage, material & administrative component to the State of Bihar under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) .

(c): 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(Fund Transfer Order) 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.

With regard to Social Audit, it is stated that the Social Audit Unit (SAU) has been established in various States/UTs, including Bihar which is headed by an independent Director. The SAU facilitates the Gram Sabha in conducting social audits of all works undertaken under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the Gram Panchayat. During these audits, any issues or grievances raised by beneficiaries or villagers—including complaints on delayed or non-payment of wages—are documented and discussed and forwarded to concerned authorities for resolution.

In addition CPGRAMs and other forums are also available on which workers/beneficiaries can raise the issue of delay in wage payment. Ministry regularly interact with States/UTs for timely resolutions of such grievances raised at various forums within fixed time frame.
