

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2366
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/12/2025

REVISION OF WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

2366 Shri Jose K. Mani:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to revise the wage rates and employment days under rural employment schemes; and
- (b) measures in place to promote rural infrastructure through convergence with other central schemes?

ANSWER

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

(a): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment Scheme. It provides livelihood security, i.e. fall back options for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available.

As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, 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 year based on change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). The wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year.

With regard to increase in workdays, it is submitted that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, is an Act to provide 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.

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 up to an additional 50 days of wage employment in a financial year in drought/natural calamity-affected notified rural areas. Further, as per Section 3(4) of the Act, the State Governments may make provision for providing

additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.

(b): There are immense possibilities of convergence both at State and District level with Departments/schemes like Agriculture, Forest, Horticulture, Fisheries, Sericulture, Animal husbandry, Fourteenth Finance Commission, State Finance Commission grants to Panchayat, irrigation, minerals, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, Railways, Drinking Water & Sanitation, School Education etc.

As per relevant provisions and guidelines under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, States/UTs Governments converge with various line Departments for execution of permissible works. The Ministry has converged with Department/Ministry's schemes at National level is given at **Annexure**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2366 dated 19.12.2025.

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) for construction of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs): Expenditure up to Rs.8.00 lakh under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is allowed and the balance cost as per the State specific estimate may be mobilised from the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI and other schemes for construction of AWC. The revised guideline issued on 30th January 2023.
2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-MoRD for rural connectivity: The guideline for providing single all weather road to non –PMGSY habitations in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi NREGS between Mahatma Gandhi NREGS & PMGSY have been issued on 17th November 2016 for taking up unconnected rural habitation.
3. Ministry of Textile for sericulture: The ‘Guidelines for taking up of host plants of silkworms through convergence of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and Scheme of Catalytic Development Programme (CDP)’ have been issued on 08.10. 2013.
4. Ministry of Railways: The guidelines have been issued on 06.04.2018 for convergence with Railways for construction and maintenance of approach roads for level crossings & for railway stations, developing and clearing silted waterway trenches and drains along the track, repairs and widening of existing railway embankment with cleaning of vegetation growth, plantation of tress at extreme boundary of railway land and protection of existing railway embankments/cuttings/bridges.
5. Rubber Board for rubber plantation: Rubber plantation can be taken up in convergence of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and schemes of Central/ State Governments. Plantation works may be funded from Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Converging partner(s) can provide handholding support to cultivators during the initial years of rubber plantation & development, build their capacity for taking up harvest and post-harvest activities, facilitate value addition (forward linkage) and provide a strong marketing network. The convergence guidelines has been issued on 02.08.2013.
6. Coconut Development Board / Other Central initiative for coconut plantation: In convergence works, all the labour intensive works relating to Coconut Plantation can be taken up under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, during the initial 2 years. Activities, including supply of material and technical support, may be covered under the schemes of Coconut Development Board or other Central/State initiatives. Remaining activities may be carried out by the beneficiary as beneficiary contribution. The convergence guidelines has been issued on 20.02.2015.
7. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (MoA&FW) for aquaculture: For promotion of aquaculture Mahatma Gandhi NREGS ponds can be adopted for synergizing their use in fisheries development in the Blue Revolution. The joint guidelines with Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, MoA&FW (now Department of Fisheries under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying) were issued on 9th November 2017.
8. NRLM – MoRD for Nutri-Garden: Guidelines have been issued on 04.05.2020 for promoting nutri-garden for individual beneficiaries and community in convergence with State Scheme and NRLM. Permissible activities promoting nutri -garden like land leveling, well, plantation activities, soak pit, recharge pit, cattle shelter, goat shelter, piggery shelter, poultry shelter, infrastructure for azolla cultivation, composting infrastructures, horticulture trees, fishery pond. These activities can be taken in rural areas while dovetailing with related Departments for supports like seeds etc.

9. Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) for promotion of fodder farms and animal husbandry and dairying activities: Joint Guidelines have been issued on 26.06.2020 for convergence with Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) to promote fodder (Development of Silvi pasture grass land) farms and animal husbandry and dairying activities.
10. Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DoDWS) for Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs): Joint guidelines have been issued on 06.07.2020 for construction of community sanitary complexes (CSCs) for strengthening community infrastructure. The unskilled component up to 230 persondays will be covered under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
11. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) for Gram Panchayat Bhawans: Joint guidelines by MoPR and MoRD have been issued on 10.06.2020 to permit utilization of 14th Finance Commission (FC) grants available with GPs as well as ensuing 15th FC untied grants during 2020-21 towards construction of Gram Panchayat Bhawans.
12. National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of Ayush: Joint Guidelines with NMPB have been issued on 11.08.2020 to promote medicinal plants under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
13. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW): Joint Guidelines with Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW) have been issued on 14.01.2021 to promote horticulture.
14. Swachh Bharat Mission(Department of Sanitation & Drinking Water): Revised guideline on Construction of Individual House Hold Latrine (IHHL) dated 25th November 2014 super seeding the guidelines issued on 11.09.2012, 13.06.2013, 19.08.2013 and 06.01.2014 for construction of IHHL under mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
15. Ministry of Defence: Amendment made in the Schedule for construction of roads in border areas 3rd November 2021.
16. Department of Sanitation & Drinking Water: Construction of Liquid waste Chamber for individual to convert single toilet pit to twin pit vide letter dated 19th January 2023.
17. Ministry of Agriculture: Convergence with the programmes of Ministry of Agriculture for promotion of Vermi compost, NADEP, cattle shelter, liquid bio manure,, Azola, fish pond for community etc. vide letter dated 13th june 2013.
18. Department of land resource: Joint guideline issued on 20th may 2009, 12th april 2013, 11th May 2015, 21st September 2022, for taking up the watershed related works in convergence with both the departments.
19. JSA-CTR-Ministry of Jal Shakti: The KPIs for convergence with Ministry of Jal Shakti under JSA-CTR are Water Conservation and Rain Water Harvesting, Renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tank, Reuse and Recharge structures, Watershed Development, Intensive afforestation Contribution of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
20. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change(MoEF & CC): Guideline issued for 19th January 2009 and 3rd March 2015 for improvement of livelihood through plantation.
21. MISHTI-MoEF & CC: To augment India's efforts in afforestation, the Union budget 2023-24 announced 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)' programme. The aim of the MISTHI Scheme is to protect and revive mangrove ecosystems on the Indian coast while enhancing the socio-economic status of coastal communities. Joint guideline approved and to be released in October 2024.
22. Department of Land Resource: Joint advisory on repair & maintenance of the NRM works created under DoLR issued on 27th May 2025 for taking up the works of PMKSY.
23. Ministry of Defence: Amendment made in the Schedule for " maintenance of bridges and tunnels constructed by Border Road Organisation" 7th July 2022.
