GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1740**
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/02/2026

## DECLINE IN DEMAND FOR WORK UNDER MGNREGA

1740 Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has reviewed the recent decline in demand for work under MGNREGA, including the reduction from approximately 35.4 million workers in June to about 12.8 million workers by October 2025, and whether an assessment has been made of its implications for rural livelihood security;
(b) whether the Ministry has examined the factors contributing to the fall in MGNREGA participation in Uttar Pradesh; and
(c) the steps being taken to address such factors and to ensure the effective delivery of MGNREGA in the State?

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

(a) & (b): 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. The responsibility of implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is vested with the Governments of concerned States/UTs. The Scheme guarantees up to 100 days of wage employment subject to demand for work by the eligible beneficiaries. The Ministry continues to closely monitor the implementation of the scheme and provides necessary support to States to ensure that all eligible rural households are able to access employment as per their demand under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. In the FY 2025-26 (as on 09.02.2026), 99.81% of the eligible rural households have been offered employment against their demand.

In case of Uttar Pradesh, it is submitted that in the FY 2025-26 (as on 09.02.2026), 99.98% of the eligible rural households have been offered employment against their demand in Uttar Pradesh Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

The demand for work is influenced by various factors such as incidence of monsoon, availability of alternate remunerative employment opportunities outside Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, engagement of rural labour in farm activities etc.

(c): The Central Government has initiated several measures to generate awareness about the scheme and ensure that no demand for employment under the scheme goes unmet. These include, (i) to initiate appropriate Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns including wall paintings for the wide dissemination of the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, (ii) to expand scope and coverage of demand registration system to ensure that demand for work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA does not go

unregistered, (iii) prepare plans in a participatory mode and approve them in the Gram Sabha, (iv) Organization of 'Rozgar Diwas'.

Further, it is also stated that the households can register themselves under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and seek employment at multiple forums, including the Gram Panchayats. The field authorities have been instructed to organize Rojgar Diwas at least once every month for covering willing unskilled labours.

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