

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3962
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27/03/2026

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION UNDER MGNREGS

3962 Dr. M. Dhanapal:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the adequacy of ₹30,000 crore budget allocation for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in 2026–27 in meeting rural employment demand amid uneven rural recovery;
- (b) the details of demand projections, employment trends and State-wise utilization patterns taken into account by Government while determining this allocation; and
- (c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to ensure timely wage payments, creation of durable assets, effective grievance redressal and transparency in programme implementation?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The provision of funds amounting to Rs. 30,000 crores has been made for the smooth transition from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) to the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G) Scheme. This is expected to meet the financial commitments under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS till the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G) Act commences. Here it is also stated that keeping in view the demand driven nature of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, Ministry undertakes continuous assessment of fund requirements based on demand for employment at the field level and seek additional funds from Ministry of Finance, whenever required, to meet such demand.

(c): With regard to timely payment of wages, it is stated that in the current financial year 2025-26 (as on 23.03.2026), 97.11 % Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) are generated within 15 days from the closure of muster rolls under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Further, as per the provisions of the Act, beneficiaries are entitled to receive wage payments within 15 days of closure of muster roll. 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 has taken various steps to ensure timely payment of wages to workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. 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 through Aadhaar Payments Bridge System (APBS), 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 to workers.

Here it is also stated that in cases where wages are not paid within this stipulated period, Schedule-II of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), wage seekers shall be entitled to receive payment of compensation for the delay, at the rate of 0.05% of the unpaid wages per day of delay beyond the sixteenth day of closure of muster roll. Delay compensation rules are notified by the State Government concerned. The amount due for compensation is duly verified and approved, and then paid by the State Government.

With regard to effective grievance redressal and transparency in scheme implementation, it is stated that as per Section 19 of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, the State Governments shall, by rules, determine appropriate grievance redressal mechanisms which allow a worker/citizen to lodge complaint and trace the subsequent response. Such a system should also create awareness among the wage seekers regarding their entitlements, processes and the redressal system through Public Information Campaigns like Rojgar Diwas. Multiple modes should be enabled for the complainant to register a complaint and include written complaints as well as those through telephone help lines. Complaints should be entered in the complaint register (one of the 7 Registers) and disposed within the statutory time limit. The complainants must also be informed of the action taken in writing.

Further, transparency and accountability are the prime focus of the scheme. Government has adopted robust process for ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of the scheme across the States/UTs. Various measures have been implemented, including the real-time Management Information System (MIS) of NREGASoft, attendance recording through the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App, Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS), geo-tagging of assets, social audits, the Yuktdhara planning portal, and the Jaldoot App. These initiatives have enhanced overall scheme efficiency across rural areas, strengthened monitoring, reduced the scope for irregularities and ensured accountable and transparent implementation of the Scheme and creation of durable as well as useful assets.
