GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 937
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/02/2026

ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN FUNCTIONING OF MGNREGA

937   Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has identified issues in the functioning of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme in the last five years;

(b)   the steps taken to rectify the identified issues;

(c)   whether the decisions taken resulted in improvement of the functioning of the MGNREGA scheme; and

(d)   if so, the details of the same and if not, the reasons for the failure?

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

(a)to (d):   Since its enactment in 2005, the MGNREGS has provided wage employment offering at least 100 days of guaranteed unskilled work to rural households.

Through various technological interventions, the Ministry of Rural Development has attempted to adopt a robust process for ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of the scheme across the States/UTs. Some of the technological interventions done for monitoring and evaluation for ensuring the proper implementation the scheme are given below:

i.   **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system in wage payment had been adopted under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS).

ii.   **National Mobile Monitoring Service (NMMS):** It enables capturing of attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites (except for individual beneficiary works) along with geo-tagged photograph twice in a day.

iii.   **Area Officer Monitoring Visit Application:** This App facilitates the officials of the State/UT to record their field visit findings online. The App also allows the officials to record time stamped and geotagged photograph for all the schemes launched by Department of Rural Development.

iv.   **GIS based plan– Use of Space Technology:** GIS based GP level plan (ridge to valley approach) preparation using Remote Sensing technology in a saturation mode for all the GPs of the country.

v. **Yuktdhara : GIS based planning tool –** To simplify the GIS based planning at GP level under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA " Yuktdhara" a Geospatial planning portal has been developed in collaboration with ISRO-NRSC.

vi. **SECURE – Software for Estimate Calculation for using Rural Rates for Employment :-** Application is being used to estimate the cost of works to be undertaken under the scheme.

vii. **GeoNREGA**: the app has been developed by using Space Technology to track the creation of assets by geotagging it, at "Before", "During" and "After" stages of the asset creation.

viii. **JANMANREGA App:** This app helps in proactive disclosure of information to its citizens in reference to the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Citizen awareness is a key to efficient, effective, and transparent execution of the scheme.

ix. **Ombudsperson App-** An Ombudsperson App has been developed for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances received from various sources viz. physical, digital and mass media related to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, easy tracking and timely passing of awards on each case as per the guidelines and easy uploading of quarterly and annual report on the website.

x. **Social Audit:** As per the mandate of the Act, the Ministry has laid emphasis on the setting up of an institutional structure at the States/UTs level for facilitating social audits of all the Gram Panchayats at least twice a year. Further, through use of Panchayat NIRNAY app developed by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Social Audit has been strengthened as it increases community involvement and transparency.

However, despite introduction of various technological and administrative interventions, in the course of several Monitoring visits and review meetings conducted over the last few years, various gaps in implementation at ground level were observed such as work being non-existent on the ground, expenditure not matching physical progress, the use of machines in labour-intensive work, inordinate delay in completion of the works and frequent bypassing of digital attendance systems.

In order to address these issues in the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB–G RAM G), one of the most comprehensive transparency and accountability architectures has been put in place, which is briefly reproduced below.

(i) In the new Act, transparency is the most significant operating principle.

(ii) One of the most important features of the new framework is mandatory weekly public disclosure. Information on works, muster rolls, payments, sanctions, inspections, and grievances will be placed in the public domain on a continuous basis through digital and physical platforms. This enables proactive disclosure and real-time oversight by citizens, Panchayats, and institutions alike.

(iii) One of the transformative features of the Act is the integration of planning and monitoring systems to completely eliminate duplication of works. Through GIS-based planning, unified MIS architecture, and convergence with national digital platforms, assets to be mapped, tracked, and validated across line departments. By eliminating duplication, institutionalising disclosure, and embedding accountability in law, VB–G RAM G sets a new national benchmark.

This ensures that the same work is not repeated under multiple schemes, while public resources are directed toward genuinely unmet local needs.

(iv)   VB–G RAM G also introduces a statutory grievance redressal framework with time-bound, multi-tier mechanisms and dedicated grievance desks. Complaints to be legally recognised, digitally tracked, and resolved within enforceable timelines—making accountability operational rather than aspirational.

(v)   The social audit system has been substantially strengthened with mandatory processes, fixed timelines, and rule-based compliance. Gram Sabha-led audits, supported by digital tools, combine community participation with institutional rigor, ensuring that feedback leads to corrective action.

(vi)   Biometric authentication, including face-based attendance and transaction verification, will ensure benefits reach genuine workers. Mandatory e-KYC and Aadhaar-Based Payment Systems will reinforce payment integrity. Electronic measurement of work links wages directly to verified outputs. AI-enabled monitoring supports planning, will detect anomalies, and flag potential fraud, while mobile-based applications and real-time dashboards will strengthen field supervision.

(vii)   All MIS data will flow into the public domain, enabling continuous scrutiny by citizens, media, and oversight bodies. This architecture moves governance from reactive audits to proactive transparency.

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